

Jerusalem Post  
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# THE JERUSALEM POST

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 Jordan & Egypt

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## Hussein, Netanyahu look to defuse water crisis

**By MICHAL YUDELMAN and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Jordan's King Hussein spoke on the telephone yesterday in an effort to defuse the crisis between the two countries over water sharing and the cancellation of a memorial ceremony.

Both leaders expressed surprise at the cancellation of events in Naharayim,

where a meeting between Netanyahu and Crown Prince Hassan and a memorial ceremony for the seven Israeli schoolgirls murdered by a Jordanian soldier there two months ago were scheduled.

Hussein telephoned Netanyahu yesterday evening and asked for clarifications concerning the events in Naharayim. Netanyahu, according to Jerusalem sources, said he would like clarifica-

Netanyahu earlier played down the water dispute, calling it a "mini crisis" and saying he is confident it will be resolved.

"We now have what I consider to be a minor difficulty in one of the provisions of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty," he said. "We will overcome it, I'm sure. It is one of those problems which are good to have. Implementing peace treaties is a good task to have."

The crisis erupted after a secret Sunday meeting in Tel Aviv between National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and Muntar Hadadin, the head of the Jordanian delegation on water and the environment. Sharon told Israel Radio the disagreement in interpretation surfaced when he told Hadadin that Israel had given Jordan one-third of the 150 million cubic meters it had promised in the peace treaty, and that the remainder would come from desalination and a new dam.

"Israel wants to fulfill its peace agreement with Jordan, but we cannot come to an agreement under pressure," Sharon said. "Israel cannot give up important interests in order to save a meeting," referring to the ceremony at Naharayim.

**Continued on Page 4**



Police look on as a bulldozer demolishes an illegal building at Yitzhar yesterday. (Reuters)

## 3 illegal buildings in Yitzhar demolished

**By MARGOT DUDKEVICH and LIAT COLLINS**

A force of 200 policemen, IDF troops, and civil administration personnel yesterday morning undertook the demolition of three illegal buildings on a hilltop 800 meters east of the settlement of Yitzhar, south of Nablus in Samaria.

Six policemen and four settlers, including toddlers, were injured, when police forcibly evacuated some 30 people who had barricaded themselves inside the last house to be demolished.

Twenty-five settlers were arrested, but were later released. Just five days ago, police carried out a similar raid and removed two caravans that had been placed on a hilltop at Mizpeh Yericho.

MKs Zvi Handel and Hanan Porat (National Religious Party) claimed that if the demolition had been approved by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, they would reconsider their membership in the coalition.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer (NRP) and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan (Tsomet) demanded that the issue be discussed at today's cabinet meeting.

As Nigerian workers, employed by the civil administration, removed the contents from the buildings, bulldozers pushed over the houses. Shortly after the houses were

demolished, Yitzhar residents started erecting tents on the hilltop. "No one can stop us from rebuilding here," said Rabbi David Dudkevich.

Settlement leaders, denouncing what they said was the brutal way police treated the settlers during the evacuation, claimed many were injured by shards of glass from windows smashed by police as they entered the house.

Settlers passively resisted the evacuation and forced the police to carry out the evacuation of the houses.

Settlers called for the ouster of OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, claiming the orders to carry out the evacuation were his "personal vendetta."

Rumors that Mordechai had sent orders demanding not to demolish the last building were denied by his spokesman, Avi Benayahu.

However, Dudkevich insisted that as the building was being demolished, IDF commanders at the site received the order.

According to Yitzhar secretary Yehuda Liebman, who lived in one of the houses that was demolished, the buildings were built two years ago. One of the buildings, he said, was made of stone, another of wood, and the third was makeshift.

The settlers were informed on Monday night, he said, that police intended to demolish the buildings. "The former government knew of their existence and let us alone. Now it is the Likud that is evacuating us," he said.

Civil administration spokesman Lt. Peter Lerner said that previous warnings to the settlers that they must stop building on the hilltop were ignored. He added that a committee which had reviewed the illegal buildings had ordered them demolished.

Claims by settlers that there were 1,700 cases of illegal buildings erected by Palestinians in Area C that had not been demolished were refuted by Lerner, who stressed that yesterday the administration also demolished houses in Ramallah and on Monday in Hebron. "Any illegal building throughout areas under our jurisdiction that is known to the administration will be demolished," he said.

Porat demanded to know whether the order for the demolition came from the government level and whether it marks a new policy on settlement in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. He accused the government of operating double standards by ignoring illegal construction by Arabs.

MK Shaul Yahalom (NRP) said if the government authorized the steps taken in Yitzhar, "the NRP cannot be part of such a government."

Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy said he had spoken with Internal Security Avigdor Kahalani asking him to investigate and bring to justice policemen who acted with brutality.

**Continued on Page 2**

## PA-Israel security talks to resume

**By JON IMMANUEL and BATSHEVA TSUR**

President Ezer Weizman and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat agreed yesterday at the Erez checkpoint that Israel and the PA would resume security talks as a first step to renewing the stalled peace talks, Weizman said.

"In the next few days Israeli and Palestinian teams will get together to renew cooperation in security affairs," Weizman told reporters after the two-hour meeting.

"We will stand by all those aspects of the security of the Israeli people," Arafat said. "I respect your views on this subject."

A PA minister later said the security talks would have to involve a third party, presumably the US. US peace envoy Dennis Ross is due to arrive today and meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Weizman, and Arafat.

General Security Service head Ami Ayalon and OC Planning Branch Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz are to meet with PA Preventive Security Service chiefs Jibril Rajoub and Mohammed Dahlan, Itim reported last night.

Weizman said the "most important aspect of the meeting for me was that Chairman Arafat agreed that he will do everything possible to rectify the situation and bring about talks in the same format in which they existed before the stalemate. I hope he will begin to work on them in the next few days. This has been agreed."

According to sources close to the president, on Monday Weizman said he had met with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, and it was assumed that the government had agreed to build a large number of apartments for Palestinians in Jerusalem to lessen the ill-feeling over the Har Homa project.

Weizman said he had come to Erez to break the ice and that "an ice-breaker does not carry cargo," but that "after that cargo ships will come a convoy with supplies," hinting that substantive matters will be dealt with by Netanyahu.

Weizman noted that "in Israel we have accepted the fact that Chairman Arafat was elected to head the Palestinian Authority in a democratic fashion. They have to understand that Benjamin Netanyahu was elected democratically in Israel."

Arafat replied: "We say we have an obligation to preserve the peace process for the sake of our children and your children. Peace has to be for the whole area, including the Syrian and Lebanese tracks for a lasting, comprehensive peace in



President Ezer Weizman leans on PA Chairman Yasser Arafat before their meeting at the Erez checkpoint yesterday. (Gideon Markovitz)

the whole region."

In response to reporters' questions, Arafat said: "I will fight terrorism wherever it is, including the confiscation of land and the demolition of housing."

PA Information Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo seemed to backtrack from Weizman's understanding that the talks would be in the same format as before the stalemate, saying that security talks "should

be in coordination with a third party." Such talks did occur since the stalemate began with the building on Har Homa, in mid-March.

**Continued on Page 2**

## Israeli qualifies for 'Jeopardy!' grand prize

**By HILLEL KUTTLER**

WASHINGTON - With his win on Monday night's 'Jeopardy!' quiz show, Boris Levit of Jerusalem became a household name - at least in American households and

at least for one night - as he qualified for a chance to pick up the \$25,000 grand prize. He is assured of taking home at least \$7,500.

Levit racked up a winning total of \$6,601 and moved on to the final rounds tomorrow and Friday.

And he did it despite Denmark's Dana Pernille Hansen's quicker hit on the buzzer in the question: This carrier offers the most flights between Israel and the US.

Levit, a freelance sound technician, said last night he simply has a "good memory" for facts, since

he reads many newspapers.

Ironically, Levit left school in the 11th grade. "School and I found out we didn't fit one another," he said.

Levit emigrated from the Soviet Union with his family in 1979 and now lives in Nahlaot.

The popular American program, hosted by Alex Trebek, held its second championship last month for walking encyclopedias from nine countries that air local versions of 'Jeopardy!'. Levit won the maximum number of three games on the Israeli show this year.

The international championship was taped in Sweden and is being shown on American television this week. The strict rules prohibit competitors from revealing the outcome until the show has aired, so there is no telling how Levit fared in the championship round.

About all 'Jeopardy!' spokeswoman Naomi Graham would say was that Levit had done "very well" in his appearances.

Levit said his winnings will finance a trip to the Far East in a few weeks.

## Comptroller's report today

State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat will present her annual report to President Ezer Weizman and Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon today.

The 1,105-page report is divided into four parts.

The first is devoted to the activities of the Treasury and the second to the other government ministries.

The third part examines the state authorities.

The defense establishment is reviewed in the last section.

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**NEWS**

*in brief*

**Shots fired at patrol in Gaza Strip**

Gunshots were fired at an IDF patrol west of Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip yesterday, but they missed, military sources said. The soldiers returned fire and opened searches. The IDF informed the Palestinian Police and both sides are investigating. Meanwhile, in Nablus, Palestinian police handed over to the IDF two RPGs which were discovered in the city. IDF sappers blew them up, military sources said. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

**Renovations at Western Wall Plaza**

The Ministry of Religious Affairs yesterday announced a NIS 15 million renovation project at the Western Wall Plaza, to include new approach roads, bathrooms, lighting, and expanding the plaza area to accommodate up to 40,000 visitors at the same time. The renovations are to be completed in time for Israel's jubilee year, during which some 4 million visitors are expected, compared to some 2.5 million this year. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

**Two killed on roads**

Efraim Mousa, 70, of Moshav Heletz, was killed yesterday afternoon when he was hit by a truck while crossing a road near the moshav. Salam Abu Medeis, 27, of Rahat, died last night of injuries suffered when his car ran off the road into a ditch north of Beersheba. In Jerusalem, a man was lightly injured in a collision among three cars and a tractor. *lim*

**Man held for threatening attacks**

Majabed Nueirat, 26, of Kafar Meitalon, near Jenin, was remanded for 10 days by Haifa Magistrate's Court yesterday. He had threatened to carry out attacks and murder Jews unless he received financial support and other assistance from the General Security Service. *lim*

**PM: Charges against Manbar 'very grave'**

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday that the charges brought against Nahum Manbar "are very grave, some of the most serious ever made against an Israeli citizen. The court will have to rule on the matter. We know we face dangers, even if we progress in our peace process, as I believe we will, and come to a peace agreement with our neighbors. There will still be states in the Middle East in which there is great doubt that they understand they too must join the peace process. The most dangerous of them is certainly Iran, so it is important for us that these sort of phenomena be uprooted." *Arieh O'Sullivan*

**PA policeman jailed for killing car passenger**

A Palestinian policeman, who on Monday shot at a car, which he said passed a roadblock near Hebron without stopping, and killed a passenger, was sentenced to 15 years in prison yesterday. Mohammed Ismail Hasan, 20, was brought before a security court after the driver Sawad Taha, 22, identified him as the policeman who fired on their car, hitting passenger Issam Gheith, 28, in the back. Taha said there was no roadblock at the spot and that he passed that way several times a day, between Hebron and his shoe factory in Dahiyet el-Bereid. *Jon Inmanuel*

**Arbitration requested in Civil Service dispute**

Treasury wage director Yossi Kucik yesterday submitted a request to the Civil Service arbitrator to consider the wage dispute between some 10,000 workers at 15 ministries and the Treasury. The Treasury spokesman said last night in a statement that the move came after repeated attempts to reach an agreement with the workers had failed. *lim*

**YITZHAR**

Continued from Page 1

The Land of Israel Front, led by MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet-Likud), also condemned the incident. Kleiner said that if Mordochai personally authorized the measures, MKs from the caucus would not support the government in a no-confidence vote on the issue.

Kleiner said if Dayan acted on his own accord, he should be replaced by someone who could work with the Jewish residents. He accused Dayan of going behind the residents back by holding negotiations with them over the homes at the same time the decision to destroy them was taken.

Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi accused the government of "not making a sound about the uncontrolled and wild building by the Arabs."

Labor Party secretary-general Nissim Zivili, on the other hand, said: "That MKs give their backing to settlers who break the law and harm soldiers and policemen is fraught with danger and has led

in the past to serious consequences. The verbal attacks by some coalition MKs - particularly in the NRP - on IDF officers can only be condemned." Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said: "The authorities did their duty by destroying the illegal structures in Yitzhar. Yitzhar is a settlement of unlawful and dangerous people and they should be dealt with as one deals with criminals who refuse to accept law and order. The NRP wants to turn the IDF and police into the government's envoys in a criminal act, but the IDF and the police are not the NRP, and they will continue to fulfill their duty."

In a related development, police acting on Dayan's orders arrived at the homes of six residents in Kiryat Arba yesterday, demanding they hand over their IDF-issued weapons. The six include three reserve officers, one of them Yisrael Blumenthal, a battalion commander.

Blumenthal told Arutz 7 yesterday that he would not hand over his weapon, calling it a "death sentence" for him especially, as Arabs are stepping up their attacks against Jews in the region.

**RESUME**

Continued from Page 1

Abud-Rabbo also said that Arafat sent a letter to Netanyahu saying that, before other talks can resume, there must be an end to building settlements.

It was not clear whether the Palestinians would be prepared to resume substantive talks as long as the Har Homa dispute remained unresolved.

Weizman arrived at Erez at 5:30 p.m., accompanied by bureau chief Arye Shimer, military aide Col. Shimon Hefetz, and Netanyahu's adviser, attorney Yitzhak Molcho.

Some 20 minutes later, Arafat stepped out of his car, the two shook hands, smiled for the cameras, then entered the building for the meeting.

Arafat was accompanied by Abud-Rabbo, chief negotiator Saeb Erekat, and spokesmen Marwan Kanafani and Nabil Abu Rudeineh.

The meeting lasted two hours and toward the end Weizman and Arafat conferred privately. After the meeting, Weizman

called Netanyahu and updated him on the results of the meeting. The two are expected to meet today to discuss the meeting in detail.

Several coalition figures sharply criticized Weizman's meeting with Arafat, expressing doubt that it was initiated with Netanyahu's consent.

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan of Tsomet pronounced the meeting "totally useless. But beyond being superfluous from a practical point of view, it does damage to our national sense of self-respect. It shames not only us collectively, but it also shames Weizman personally."

Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi accused the president of "sticking his nose in matters that do not concern him. It is not the president's job to find a diplomatic compromise."

*Liat Collins and Sarah Honig contributed to this report.*

**SOCIAL & PERSONAL**

**THE WEEKLY MEETING** of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Naomi Chazan MK will speak on "A View on Current Social Problems."

By **MICHAEL YUDELMAN,** **SARAH HONIG,** and **ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER**

Labor MK Yossi Beilin said yesterday he had persuaded Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan to come to Israel to meet President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, members of Knesset and students in the near future.

Beilin met Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul-Salam Majali and Foreign Minister Faiz Tarame in Amman yesterday as part of his personal initiative to revive the peace process.

Beilin's visit caused Netanyahu's office embarrassment, in view of the tension with Jordan over the water agreement and Hassan's cancellation of his meeting with Netanyahu in Naharayim yesterday. Sources in the Prime Minister's

Office criticized Beilin for meeting Jordanian leaders without coordinating the move with the government.

The sources also charged Beilin, who is running for Labor's leadership, of going to Jordan as part of his primaries campaign.

"I want to remind the Prime Minister's Office that I am not a civil servant or government worker. I am one of the opposition leaders and I will do everything in my power to move the peace process forward, because in my eyes there is no national interest of greater importance," Beilin said.

Beilin and Hassan reportedly agreed that stopping the peace talks constitutes self-punishment, and punishes all those who want peace on both sides.

Hassan reportedly told Beilin in the meeting that it was not the Jordanians who had canceled the events at Naharayim, but the



Yossi Beilin (Reuters)

Israelis, and that he would have attended the ceremony as a private person.

Hassan, who said he has been getting many invitations by Israeli students and politicians, expressed an interest in coming here and meeting people, especially students, before

the end of the school year. Beilin expressed regret that the meeting with Netanyahu and Hassan did not take place, "but because I had the opportunity to meet with the Jordanian leaders and give them the opportunity to express themselves, I hope I contributed to reduce the mini-crisis between Jordan and Israel."

The Likud yesterday blasted Beilin for "seeking to conduct private foreign policy despite the fact that he knows he represents no one and can commit the state of Israel to nothing."

In an official statement the party spokeswoman said that "unfortunately this charade is not funny because while Beilin is scurrying around the Middle East, he undermines the legitimate diplomatic process undertaken by the legitimate democratically elected government of Israel, which alone is authorized to negotiate on behalf of

the state. Beilin may not approve, but the rules of the democratic game are that there is only one government at a time."

The Likud charged that "Beilin is seeking to advance his own political cause in the upcoming Labor primaries by appointing himself to conduct diplomatic contacts, but the message this impacts to the other side is that Labor will be ready for far greater concessions than this government is. This sabotages Israel's negotiating position and makes it impossible to put forth a unified position even as regards Israel's most vital existential interests."

Supporters of Labor leadership frontrunner MK Ehud Barak said Beilin's moves were solely an attempt to overtake Barak's lead. A Labor MK formerly closely associated with Beilin said last night that "what we are witnessing is an immature show-off performance."

**Beilin: Hassan to visit soon**

**IAF hits Hizbullah targets in Lebanon**

By **DAVID RUDGE**

The IAF blasted Hizbullah targets in south Lebanon yesterday afternoon, as at least one gunman was reported to have been killed in heavy fighting in the region.

Two Lebanese civilians were also killed and two others wounded in a roadside bombing on the outskirts of Nabatiya township, north of the security zone.

Hizbullah accused Israel of being responsible for the bombing, saying it was the "worst violation by Israel of the [Grapes of Wrath] April understandings."

Lebanese radio stations reported that the Lebanese government is expected to submit a complaint to the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group over the incident.

It was not clear whether Hizbullah would use the civilian casualties as an excuse for Katyusha attacks. Hizbullah leaders have threatened rocket attacks on Galilee if the organization feels that the monitoring group is "no longer able to protect Lebanese civilians."

According to reports from Lebanon, two construction workers who had been loading rocks onto a truck were killed. The reports said a number of bombs had been hidden in fiberglass moulds designed to look like rocks, and had exploded when the workers touched them. A man and his wife who were in a car nearby were wounded.

Lebanese radio stations quoted Lebanese security sources as saying that they had enough evidence to implicate Israel in the blasts.

There was no comment from the IDF, apparently because the mat-



Lebanese policemen inspect a car damaged in a roadside bombing near Nabatiya in which two people were killed yesterday. (Reuters)

ter is expected to be raised at the monitoring group, which is due to meet today to discuss a complaint by Israel over Hizbullah bomb attacks near Marjayoun on Monday, in which four Lebanese civilians and three SLA soldiers

were wounded.

The IAF struck at Hizbullah targets in the Jezzine region, north of the security zone. The IDF Spokesman said the pilots reported direct hits and that all the planes returned safely to base.

There was further fighting in the afternoon with gunmen firing anti-tank missiles and light weapons at SLA troops on patrol. An SLA outpost in the area also came under fire. There were no casualties.

Fighting was reported later in the evening in the Kantara region, in the central sector of the security zone. According to reports from Lebanon, a Hizbullah gunman was killed and others may have been wounded.

**Hebron sewage could aggravate mosquito problem**

By **LIAT COLLINS**

The problem of mosquitoes in the South could be particularly serious this summer, because of the untreated sewage flowing from Hebron. Environment Ministry Director-General Nehama Ronen has warned.

The areas expected to be worst hit include those bordering the Hebron wadi, Meitar, Omer, and the Beduin villages of the Ab-Kaf tribe. Ronen is calling for the supply of water to Hebron to be made conditional on the appropriate treatment of sewage.

The problem is expected to be worse this year than in the past, according to Ronen, because a large number of sawmills have been established in the areas along the Hebron wadi under Palestinian Authority control. They produce great quantities of untreated wastewater which flows directly into the stream. Environmentalists also predict that the wadi will have flowing water most of this summer, worsening the problem.

In the past, residents have been so plagued by mosquitoes that Jews and Arabs got together to hold joint protests.

Ronen noted that the ministry does not have the authority to take action to force the Hebron Municipality to treat its wastewater and said the matter must be dealt with at the highest government levels.

Ronen said the Hebron Municipality is deliberately not operating the sewage treatment plant, established with civil administration funding, for political reasons, "and therefore there is no alternative but to make the continued water supply to the town conditional on its treatment of the wastewater."

"The Palestinian Authority is responsible for dealing with the problem under the interim agreement, but as with other environmental issues, it is not cooperating and continues to create serious environmental hazards," Ronen said.

**Samaria council to sell 900 housing units**

By **MARGOT DUDKEVITCH**

The Samaria Regional Council is planning to offer 900 houses and apartments for sale in settlements throughout the region. The effort is to be preceded by a large advertising campaign, due to start in the next few weeks.

Council spokeswoman Ahuva Shilo said yesterday the council has received hundreds of calls from people wishing to live in the area. Many of the houses on offer, Shilo says, were built before 1992 and have been standing empty since.

"In 1992, under the former government, a construction freeze was clamped down on Judea and Samaria. Now we have received permission to sell those houses," she said.

Some settlements which have recently sold houses include Shavei Shomron, Yafik, Ganim, and Kadim. Those in the latter, Shilo said, were sold despite the fact that the two settlements are considered problematic due to their proximity to the Palestinian-controlled Jenin.

The 160-family settlement Barkan is planning to sell 45 "build your own house" units, said Shilo, who noted "The outline plan for Barkan includes the future addition of several hundred more families." The settlement is near the regional council industrial area, which has 100 factories and currently employs 4,500 workers.

Peace Now secretary-general Motti Raz says that recently building permits were granted to many settlements, including 1,800 in Kiryat Sefer, 1,500 in Ma'aleh Adumim, 1,200 in Emanuel, and 70 in Karmeit Shomron. In addition, Raz said, final approval will be granted to thousands more in

the next few months. However, Raz said, settlements such as Eli and Shilo have been unable to sell houses that they have built.

Despite the construction freeze under the former government, the regional population sprouted from 9,000 to 13,700. Shilo said, adding that the regional council constantly receives queries from people seeking a higher standard of life, including good educational facilities and a house on a plot of land.

Six weeks ago, said Shilo, regional council members returned from a trip to the US, where they met with potential new immigrants and spoke about moving to Samaria. The group included the head of the absorption center in Shavei Shomron, Baruch Lior.

"The majority of those who make aliyah from the US are religious and we offered them the option of moving to Samaria and purchasing a house on a plot of land," she said.

Council leaders were pleased to discover that during their trip, which took them to New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago, many of the Jews they met with responded positively.

"Until now these people hadn't been informed of Samaria by the aliyah emissaries there," she said.

Shilo added that, instead of questions regarding the political and security situation, the council leaders were surprised that the main question potential immigrants asked was the price of a house or apartment. Since their return, two families they met in the US have moved to Karmeit Shomron. In addition, a Russian youth whom the group met in Chicago is now attending the utpan at Shavei Shomron.

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party also said to the judge... critics of the Government are on trial for subver...



Colombian President Ernesto Samper visits the Western Wall yesterday.

(Brian Hamilton)

# Colombian leader's visit displeases US

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN, HILLEL KUTTLER and STEVE RODAN

Colombian President Ernesto Samper's visit here is arousing displeasure in the United States, where he is suspected of being linked to drug trafficking, diplomatic sources say. Samper, who is also the president of the Non-Aligned Nations, met yesterday with President Weizman and Foreign Minister David Levy, and today is to meet with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Samper is persona non grata in the US, which has forbidden his entry. He is suspected by the Clinton administration of having ties with drug barons and Colombia's attorney-general has accused him of financing his election campaign with funds from the drug cartel.

While the US has not made any official statement to Israel concerning Samper, Israel Radio reported yesterday that last week

a representative of the American Embassy presented the Foreign Ministry with a list of crimes Samper is suspected of.

At his meeting with Levy, Samper offered to contribute to building an atmosphere of trust between Israel and the Palestinians, saying that stopping the peace process only serves the terrorists and the most important thing is not to allow violence or terrorism to stop the talks.

The State Department indicated the US attitude toward Samper is well known. "I'd say it's obviously up to any country to make its own decisions," said Sherman Hinson of the department's bureau of international narcotics and law enforcement.

"In our case, we've declared Ernesto Samper ineligible for a US visa, because we have evidence he received campaign contributions from drug traffickers. But it's up to other countries to make of that what they will."

Every year since 1986, Colombia has been cited by the State Department as a country involved in drug producing and trafficking. For the past two years, it has also failed to receive a presidential waiver given to countries judged to be making a real effort to combat the problem. About one-fourth of all cocaine consumed in the US comes from Colombia, Hinson said.

Meanwhile, Samper was urged yesterday by Israel Aircraft Industries executives to confirm within the next few days a slot in space for a satellite Israel hopes to launch. Colombia has until Saturday to confirm the slot it has reserved with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) since 1992. The reservation is crucial for Israeli plans to launch a telecommunications satellite for Colombia and four other South American nations within the next three years.

# Arab local councils hold one-day strike

By DAVID RUDGE

Tens of thousands of Israeli Arab schoolchildren missed classes yesterday because of a one-day warning strike called by Arab local council heads.

Municipal services in Arab towns and villages throughout the country were also shut down as part of the protest against the financial plight of the debt-ridden local authorities.

Council leaders accused the government of failing to honor an agreement reached in January, after a lengthy protest campaign, to increase the regular and development budgets of the 53 Arab councils.

Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum of Arab Council Heads, said the decision to stage the 24-hour warning strike of municipalities and the education service was made at a meeting of the forum in Shfaram on Saturday.

Suleiman, who is also head of Mash'had local council near Nazareth, said further protest measures were planned unless the government immediately implemented the January agreement. The measures include calling an

indefinite general strike of the entire Arab sector, as well as mass demonstrations.

The monitoring committee of the Israeli Arab leadership, which includes the forum of council heads, Arab MKs and public figures, is to meet next Tuesday, immediately after Independence Day, to decide on the further steps in the protest campaign.

Suleiman said the Arab councils had debts totalling NIS 450 million and more than 30 had been unable to pay the salaries of employees - some of them for several months.

"Under the agreement reached in January, the government promised that the councils would be given NIS 40m. this year for development projects and an additional NIS 160m. on regular budgets, spread over three years," said Suleiman.

"It was also agreed that a committee would look into ways of consolidating the deficits of the councils and make recommendations. So far, nothing has transpired from all of these promises which appear to be as worthless as the paper they were written on," he added.

# Matza wants end to Treasury 'interference'

By JUDY SIEGEL

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza demanded yesterday that Finance Minister Dan Meridor "call his staff to order, and not allow bureaucrats to direct the policy of the government."

Matza, who is in Geneva to attend the World Health Assembly, was referring to statements by Treasury budgets chief David Milgrom, who on Monday advocated nationalizing the health system and/or cutting back on health services.

Matza, using harsh words and referring to bureaucrats as "Treasury boys," accused them of trying to bring the health system to the edge of catastrophe.

"We agreed to set up joint teams for a package deal in the field of health, and suddenly Treasury clerks stand up and present themselves as policymakers," Matza declared. He added that the national health insur-

ance law required certain amendments, "but not before the basket of health services is updated to include new technologies and drugs, as well as keep up with demographics and aging. I call on all who care about the health system to remember this and not to make damaging and baseless declarations," Matza said.

Meanwhile, the Israel Pensioners Association has declared that it would launch a struggle against attempts to cut back on health services.

Gideon Ben-Yisrael, the association's chairman, said that senior citizens use 4.5 times more health services than younger people. Only those with a guaranteed income allotment get a discount on medications, he said. Cuts in the basket of health services will first and foremost harm the elderly, who cannot bear the extra expense that the Treasury wants to foist on the public, he added.

# 1st International conference on Jewish adult education to be held this winter

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Jewish educators are expected to converge on Jerusalem this winter for the First International Conference on Jewish Adult Education, the Jewish Agency's Joint Authority for Jewish-Zionist Education announced yesterday.

"Jewish education is a multi-disciplinary, multi-stream, life-long challenge," said Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg. "Jewishly educated adults also become the Jewish educators and role models for their children, ensuring generations of more informed, more affiliated and more involved Jews worldwide," he added.

The conference, to take place from December 28-31, is designed for experts in formal or informal adult Jewish education, including teachers, academics, organizers or administrators. The gathering will focus on religious Jewish educa-

tion, Hebrew studies, Zionist education, parenthood and Jewish community, and Israeli history, among other subjects. Participants are expected from as far away as Australia and Brazil, and there will also be representatives from Hungary, the former Soviet Union, England and Hungary.

"Many experts deal with adult Jewish education throughout the world," said Shaul Lilach, director-general of the authority's Department of Jewish Education and Culture in the Diaspora. "Yet they have never met as an international group to discuss the professional aspects of their work and how to improve and coordinate Jewish education for adults."

Those interested in attending the conference, to be conducted in English and Hebrew, should contact Laetia Benabou at the authority's Jerusalem office, 02-675-9408, or fax 675-9210. The E-mail address is laetia@jazo.or.il

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# Jordanian envoy: No water, no talks

By STEVE RODAN

Jordanian Ambassador Omar Rifai, dismissing assertions of a crisis in relations, said yesterday he does not foresee more high-level meetings to discuss the water issue until Israel begins to honor its commitment to provide 100 million cubic meters to his country. Rifai said the peace treaty stipulated that the water issue be resolved within a year after its October 1994 signing. The treaty called for an immediate 50 million cu.m. of water to Jordan for irrigation, something which Israel honored, as well as an additional 100 million cu.m. through internationally-funded projects.

"The water issue is not new," Rifai said. "We are in May 1997. We have been talking of the water problem for a year and a half, and we are still at the same point. We have a problem. There are 100 million cu.m. of water still missing."

Israeli diplomatic sources said the heart of the dispute has been Jordan's demand for an immediate transfer of 50 million cu.m. which was to have been obtained by the construction of two dams in Jordan,



Omar Rifai (David Rubinger)

Ariel Sharon and Jordanian Water and Irrigation Minister Munther Haddadin in Amman.

Regardless, Rifai said he did not foresee more meetings between the ministers until Israel agrees to transfer more water.

"There is a problem here with the water and it seems the solution is in Israeli hands," he said. "When the Israelis say fine, we can have more [meetings]. The meetings are not the issue. We've been meeting for a year. So do we want another meeting? It's not a crisis. But we have this water issue."

Rifai stressed that the decision to cancel yesterday's ceremony at Naharayim for the seven Bet Shemesh schoolgirls killed by a Jordanian soldier in March was Israel's. He said that in contrast to Israel's assertions, Jordan had never said Crown Prince Hassan would attend the ceremony.

"There was a declaration that Jordan would attend the ceremony, but at what level was not stated," he said. "Last night, we informed the Israelis that the crown prince would not be attending and wanted to talk about who would be sent. The Israeli response was to cancel the whole thing."

# Ceremony cancellation shocks, angers Beit Shemesh

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

Teenage girls in white blouses and long black skirts stood in the early-morning light of Beit Shemesh yesterday and listened disbelievingly to the news their teachers delivered. After steeling themselves psychologically to return to Naharayim, where a Jordanian soldier shot down seven of their friends and classmates less than two months ago, they learned that the trip had been cancelled.

It was as if the young students of the Amit-Fuerst School were victims once more, this time of the vagaries of Middle East diplomacy. Students, teachers, and school officials were baffled and angered at the cancellation of the entire memorial ceremony. The day was to have had several parts — in the morning, the dedication of a hill of flowers in memory of the victims, then planting of trees in their memory, in which the key participants were the families of the murdered girls. Only later, in the afternoon, was a meeting between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Crown Prince Hassan planned.

But at 2:30 a.m. yesterday, school officials and the families of the Naharayim victims received phone calls telling them that the entire day's events would not take place.

"Last night, I sat down with the Jordanians, the police, the General Security Service, and we discussed and planned every detail," said administrative head Haim Rachman. "We decided how the ceremony would go, what songs would be sung, where ambulances would be.

"And what is really odd is that we even discussed how the day would be run should Binyamin Netanyahu and Prince Hassan cancel their participation: the plan was that the events would go on and be attended by local Israeli and Jordanian officials. Cancelling the whole thing this way was a crying shame for the girls, and it's worse for the victims' families."

Indeed, it was the families of the victims who were the most devastated by the decision. Shimon Cohen, the father of Keren Cohen, said he was extremely angry that his personal tragedy is being mixed up with politics, and was not assuaged by assurances that the dedication of the memorials had simply been postponed.

"Whose event was this? Bibi's? Hassan's?" asked Cohen with quiet fury. "Was it their ceremony or our ceremony? I think it belonged to us. How can they inform people who have been through what we have been through by calling us on 2:30 in the morning? Why do we need the Jordanians to memorialize our daughters? We should have had our ceremony on our side of the island without them."

A glance at the hallways and classrooms of the school shows that the pain of the tragedy is still fresh. At the entrance to the school stands a memorial to the seven girls, and in every classroom, bulletin boards are covered with construction-paper memorial candles and poems written by students to express their grief.

Teachers and counselors who had worked hard over the past month and a half to help their students deal with the tragedy — coping with the nightmares and traumatic memories of those who watched their friends die before their eyes — said that yesterday was a setback.

"The girls came back from Pessah break so much more relaxed, as if they had started to put what happened behind them and get back to their studies," said Rosa Himi, who had been on the Naharayim trip. "But then we had to work to help them prepare for this day in Naharayim, and today the frustration of the cancellation. None of it does them any good."

Himi said it would be impossible to teach classes as usual, and that her students would go visit the homes of one of the girls killed.

Counselor Esti Gross stood patiently with group after group of girls and tried to explain to them what had happened. "Israel and Jordan had a disagreement over who should get how much water and, because of these fights, the ceremony was cancelled," she told them.

They looked back at her suspiciously: Many didn't believe her; they were certain that the event was off because of the threat of another terrorist incident.

Some of the girls had mixed feelings about the cancellation. "In a way, it's good, it's a relief," said Pinna Zino, one of the participants on the Naharayim trip. "Our parents were so worried about our going back there, and we were frightened, too. But on the other hand, we were all looking forward to going and feeling close to the memory of our friends who were killed."



Tichon meets Bible Quiz contestants. Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon (right) chats with (from left) Michal Filosof of Brazil, Irina Gravitky of Argentina, and Netanya Saguy of Argentina, three of the contestants in the annual Bible Quiz. The 50 contestants, from 26 countries, visited the Knesset yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

# Hussein cancels Technion visit

By DAVID RIDGE

King Hussein of Jordan has canceled a scheduled visit to the Technion in Haifa next month to receive an honorary doctorate because the timing of the ceremony is unsuitable, the Technion said in a statement yesterday, after having been notified of the change by Jordan's ambassador to Israel.

However, the ambassador noted that the king would be pleased to accept the title at his palace in Amman or at the Technion at a

later time, according to the statement.

The announcement followed the cancellation of a meeting at Naharayim yesterday between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Crown Prince Hassan.

King Hussein was informed of the award at least a month ago, and at the time accepted the invitation for the presentation, which was scheduled to take place at the international board of governors' meeting at the beginning of June.

The Technion decided to award the king the honorary doctorate in recognition of his leadership and commitment to peace in the Middle East.

The board of governors' meeting will go ahead as planned.

Technion spokesman Amir Zmora said the university was "disappointed and sorry" about the cancellation and would check the possibility of "conducting the award ceremony at the Technion at a later date that would be suitable for the king."

# Ex-senior police officer, Bella Weinstock released on bail in London

By RAINE MARCUS

Retired police deputy commander Bella Weinstock, who was arrested for attempted fraud in London two weeks ago, was released on \$160,000 bail yesterday. Bail had been set last week, but until yesterday Weinstock was unable to obtain the money.

Police allege that Weinstock, who retired from the police force three years ago, attempted to defraud

British tycoon Sir Rocco Forte out of \$10 million. She was arrested with an Israeli/Ukrainian citizen and a number of South Americans when Forte filed a complaint to police over the alleged fraud attempt. The South Americans were later released.

Weinstock, 52, has protested her innocence, saying there was a misunderstanding and that she was working on behalf of a foreign company, which she would not name.

During her career in the police

force, Weinstock, who for a time was a judge in the police disciplinary courts, made many enemies because of her relentless attitude in cracking down on her fellow officers and her battle against irregularities in the force.

Police here were shocked at the news of her arrest, which was kept secret for several days. Weinstock will have to remain in London, as part of her bail conditions, until her trial.

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# Nomination of tobacco exec as NY's UJA/Federation head draws fire

By JUDY SIEGEL and MARILYN HENRY

The United Jewish Appeal/Federation of New York has been bombarded with protests against its plans to name James Tisch, president of P. Lorillard -

one of the largest tobacco companies in the US - as its president.

Alan Jaffe, chairman of the nominating committee, and UJA executive vice president Stephen Solender, have received numerous letters, calls and messages advising the appointment could harm its

image and put a damper on donations.

Leading Jewish intellectual Leonard Fein wrote from Boston that he thinks the appointment would be "morally repugnant" because "manufacturers of cigarettes are merchants of death."

Timothy Smith, executive director of New York's Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, protested that "every minute a person smokes snuffs out a minute of that person's life: a slow suicide. We believe that those responsible for the deaths of others violate the Sixth Commandment. Given the non-debatable data about the health hazards of cigarettes, the honoring of a person to serve as the UJA's leader when he is promoting policies and practices that undermine the very health of this country... would be unconscionable."

Rabbi David Saperstein, a prominent anti-smoking activist in Washington, noted that "honoring and legitimizing both tobacco use and the industry that is based on it will implicate the federation in this sweeping debate and tarnish its

image."

Solender would not comment directly on the tobacco issue. He did say, however, that "James Tisch has demonstrated a strong commitment to strengthening the Jewish community through many years of dedication to communal service. For more than a decade he has served with distinction in a variety of posts that demanded strong leadership and energy. He represents a new generation of lay leadership and is well qualified to help this organization reach out to younger people..."

"The presidency is not an honorary title, but one that carries enormous responsibility and demands tremendous time and energy. UJA/Federation is fortunate that someone of Jim Tisch's caliber is willing to take on such a role."



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## WATER

Continued from Page 1

Netanyahu pulled out of the ceremony when it became clear Hassan would not participate.

"There was an agreement between us and the Jordanians to delay the ceremony," Netanyahu said, but Jordan denied the meeting between Netanyahu and Hassan had ever been confirmed.

Speaking during a visit at the Tel Nof air base yesterday, Netanyahu said the ceremony could have gone on at a lower diplomatic level, which he did not want.

"The memory of the girls who were so brutally massacred there demands a ceremony at the appropriate level, to stress the obligation of Israel and Jordan to ensure that this sort of thing won't recur, and therefore the ceremony will take place in the future."

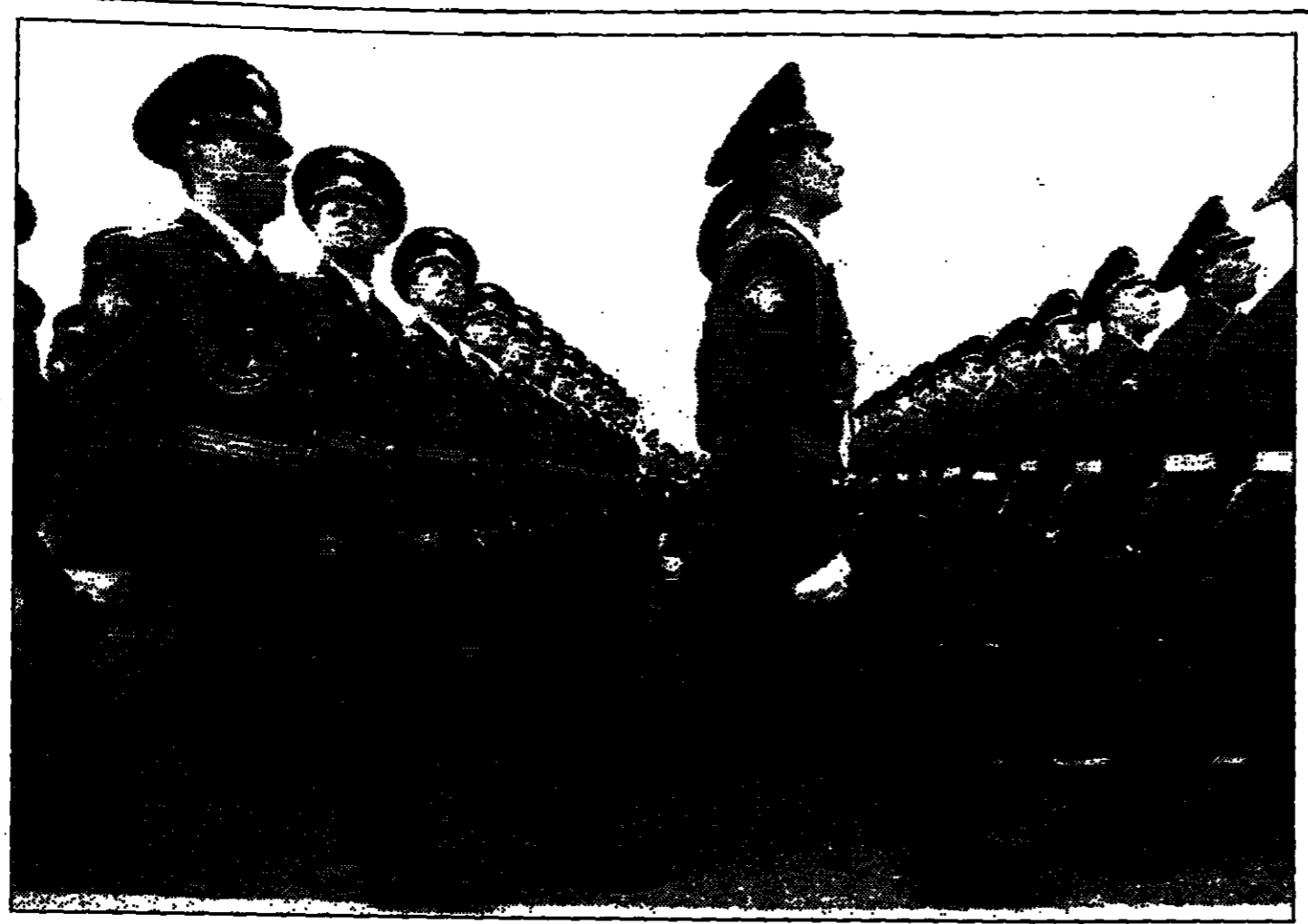
Hassan telephoned Sharon yesterday to discuss the water controversy, and suggested that Israel and Jordan finance the additional costs holding up the implementation of the water agreement.

Government sources, meanwhile, blamed Egypt for the cancellation of Netanyahu's meeting with Hassan, noting that Egypt has been pressuring Jordan to cool its relations with Israel and toe the line with the rest of the Arab world. They also said the Jordanians, knowing how eagerly Netanyahu wanted the meeting, tried to squeeze water concessions from Israel. When they realized this would not work, they decided to cancel the meeting.

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan did not buy Netanyahu's definition of "a minor crisis," saying: "This is a premeditated antagonistic move by the Arab world, because this current government does not give in like the previous Israeli government did... There is no peace process. The Arabs want to destroy us, as they always did."

Merez MK Amnon Rubinstein said Hassan should not have cancelled his participation in the ceremony. "No political differences of opinion with Israel can justify cancelling the ceremony or the harm caused to the feelings of the bereaved families," he said.

Sarah Honig and Liat Collins contributed to this report.



Forward march  
Russian officers rehearse for a military parade scheduled for Friday to mark Russia's victory over Nazi Germany. (Reuters)

# Russia hopes for deal with NATO

BRUSSELS (AP) — NATO and Russia return to the bargaining table yesterday for what Russia's foreign minister says may be the final negotiations on an agreement outlining a new relationship between Moscow and the alliance.

Meeting in Luxembourg, the tiniest member of the alliance, NATO Secretary General Javier Solana and the Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov will try to work out the remaining details of a new NATO-Russia document. The Russians say they would like to sign the agreement at a May 27 ceremony in Paris.

NATO, for its part, is less confident that

yesterday's negotiating session will be the last. But both sides reported they were getting closer to agreement after five meetings.

NATO wants to complete the deal before its July 8-9 summit in Madrid, Spain, where it will name the first new members from Central and Eastern Europe. Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic are believed to be the leading candidates.

"I very much want my meeting tomorrow with NATO Secretary General Javier Solana to be the final one in the negotiating process to work out an agreement between Russia and NATO," Primakov told

reporters in Strasbourg, France. "One can say the moment of truth will come tomorrow." NATO officials said, however, that though progress has been made, substantial differences remain on the military aspects of the agreement.

"It doesn't look, from our point of view, that this meeting will be the last," said one official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Hopefully, it will be a decisive meeting. But we will have to meet again even in the best of scenarios." Most aspects of the document have been agreed, including the creation of a new Russia-NATO council which will allow Moscow to have a

direct voice — but not a vote — in NATO decisions.

Unresolved, however, are Russian fears that NATO's move into Central and Eastern Europe poses a military threat. NATO has said it has "no plan, no need and no intention" to move nuclear weapons or combat troops on to the territories of new members, but it will not definitively rule out such a move if future circumstances warrant it.

Moscow wants stronger assurances.

Separate negotiations in Vienna, Austria are revising the treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, setting out new country-by-country limits on troops and weapons.

# Bre-X Minerals' shares plummet after gold scam

News agencies

TORONTO — Shares in disgraced Bre-X Minerals plunged to mere pennies yesterday as Indonesia clamped down on the company in the wake of mining's greatest ever scam.

Bitter investors got their first chance to react to news that the company's purported gold bonanza in Indonesia was a fraud and many began preparing lawsuits. Potential partners jumped ship and the Mounties' fraud squad joined the hunt for perpetrators of the scam, which involved doctoring thousands of rock samples over three years.

"This is a top-notch, No. 1, world-class scam," said John Woods, who publishes an investment newsletter in Vancouver. "So many people were fooled for so long."

The price of Bre-X shares opened at six Canadian cents at the Toronto Stock Exchange as trading resumed after a one-day suspension following disclosure of the scam.

The shares, which were worth pennies in 1993, had soared to \$280 Canadian dollars each last fall — more than \$200 US they had closed Friday at \$3.23 Canadian dollars.

A staggering 35.4 million shares — about half the exchange's normal overall daily trading volume — changed hands in the first hour, overloading the computer system and forcing

# North Korea, facing famine, hits South for talks failure

SEOUL (Reuters) — North Korea slammed South Korea for the deadlock in Red Cross talks on food aid but Seoul said it was hopeful future contacts would lead to better ties.

South Korean negotiators returned home yesterday after Red Cross organizations of the two Koreas failed to agree to ways of speeding up southern food aid to the hungry North in their first contacts in nearly five years that ended on Monday in Beijing.

"No agreement was reached at the contact due to the South side's eccentric and incomprehensible attitude," Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

"It is empty talk and a sheer waste of time to discuss the procedures and method of the offering with the South side's position remaining unclear," KCNA quoted a spokesman for the North Korean Red Cross as saying.

Seoul's Deputy Prime Minister Kwon O-kiel told parliament the North nevertheless agreed to resume dialogue through a telephone link-up in Panmunjom, the only crossing point in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) bisecting the Korean peninsula.

The Beijing talks stalled over the exact amount and method of delivery for South Korean grain to the North, Red Cross officials said.

The South Korean Red Cross had wanted to set up channels for direct delivery of relief supplies. The

North sought a promise of an exact aid amount before discussing procedures.

The South also wanted the grain to be moved directly between the two Korean organizations rather than using the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as a go-between as in past shipments of aid, Seoul officials said.

The North said the talks would resume after the South decided on the amount of food aid it would give but Southern officials said the amount of assistance would depend on how much South Korean citizens were willing to donate.

South Korea's Red Cross is the only window for private food donations from the South to the North, which is sliding into famine after being hit by devastating floods in 1995 and 1996.

Officials report children dying from malnutrition and farmers eating sawdust.

Seoul officials said Red Cross contacts in 1984, arranged to discuss relief supplies after South Korea was hit by floods, had opened an exchange of visits by artists, divided families and officials.

"The government's position is to keep making efforts to promote dialogue with the North," said Lee Ho, South Korea's deputy unification minister.

"We hope contacts between Red Cross organizations will lead to more talks and serve to build up confidence in each other," Lee said.



US President Bill Clinton meets with Mexican Foreign Minister Jose Angel Gurrria. (Reuters)

# Clinton raises drugs, immigration, in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — With the thunder of a 21-gun salute, President Ernesto Zedillo and President Clinton opened a day of talks yesterday designed to ease festering disagreements between "valued partners and trusted friends."

The president laughed about it later: "You see how hard he has to run? I would have forgotten my own name." After all the feel-good rhetoric, the leaders were getting down to work.

A summary of the drug declaration gives the Zedillo and Clinton cabinets until the end of the year to complete a common drug strategy on 16 specific objections — ranging from a crackdown on money laundering to negotiations of an extradition agreement and further cooperation on efforts to stem the flow of illegal firearms across the border.

Overlooking the lush, green lawn of the Campo Marte parade ground, Zedillo called Clinton "a good friend to Mexico — a friend who respects Mexico as a sovereign nation." The remarks played the widespread belief here that US actions on trade and drug trafficking undermine Mexico's national integrity. In a nod to that sense of nationalism, Clinton argued that the United States and Mexico are equal partners — even on the issues of drugs, immigration, trade and human rights that have divided the two nations.

"Let us reach across our common frontier to embrace our tomorrows together — to enter the 21st century as valued partners and trusted friends," he said.

Zedillo and Clinton were joined on stage by their wives, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Nilda Patricia Velasco. They stood as both countries' national anthems were played, and watched from above as cavalry and military academy cadets paraded by, trailed by horse-drawn cannons.

Afterward, the leaders shook hands with dozens of flag-waving youngsters, a few of whom tumbled over rope lines as they stretched for Clinton's hand.

In the crowd watching the ceremony, American Nancy Bein commented, "I thought Zedillo glossed over issues and made everything look peachy." Clinton was more realistic, she added, "but what can

# Japanese visit to disputed islands angers China

BEIJING (Reuters) — China and Taiwan reacted with anger yesterday to a visit by a Japanese nationalist legislator to disputed islands in the East China Sea, while the Japanese government quickly distanced itself from the landing.

Hong Kong activists backing China's claims to the Japanese administered isles pledged to go ahead with plans to sail to the islands from Taiwan with Taiwanese protesters on May 18.

Yesterday's incident, which saw conservative Japanese deputy Shingo Nishimura and three other people land on the Diaoyu, or Senkaku islands, threatened to rekindle a decades old dispute.

"The illegal landing is a serious violation of China's territorial sovereignty," Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang said. "The Diaoyu islands have been a part of Chinese territory since ancient times."

Japan, which has claimed the islands between Taiwan and Okinawa since 1895, was quick to distance itself from the landing by Nishimura, a member of the main opposition New Frontier Party.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, clearly displeased, said: "It is well-known that the owner of the land has refused to allow landings there. Do members of parliament have the right to completely ignore that?"

# Kasparov may have folded too soon

NEW YORK (AP) — Garry Kasparov's loss to the IBM computer Deep Blue had chess experts around the world asking each other yesterday: Did the Russian champion give up too easily against the machine?

"I'd say there are hundreds of thousands of people now looking at that possibility," said grandmaster Gabriel Schwartzman, the reigning US Open chess champion who runs Kasparov's official Web site.

"I would love to hear Deep Blue's opinion," Schwartzman said, glancing at the chess-playing computer.

Speculation centers on whether Kasparov was right to quit in the middle of what he considered a hopeless position against Deep Blue.

The alternative was to go for a draw by using his queen to keep the computer's king in perpetual check and force a stalemate, Schwartzman said.

Chess grandmasters all over the world picked up on that possibility, many also using computers for analysis, Schwartzman said. As of yesterday morning, no conclusion was reached, he said.

After defeating the computer Saturday in the opening game of their closely watched six-game match, Kasparov lost Game 2 on Sunday. Game 3 was set for yesterday.

On Saturday, the computer, playing black, resigned after Kasparov's 45th move. But on



Did Garry Kasparov give up too easily? (Reuters)

# Texan separatist shot dead

FORT DAVIS (AP) — Police returned to the air over the rugged Davis Mountains yesterday in a search for a member of the militant Republic of Texas, a day after one of his comrades shot three tracking dogs and then was killed in a shootout.

Both men had disappeared into the mountains hours before other allies of the group ended a week-long standoff with authorities.

The leader of the group, which believes the formerly independent Texas was illegally absorbed by the United States, and several followers were named in a fraud indictment.

The missing man still being sought had never been spotted Monday, when authorities scoured the mountains on horseback and helicopter and with trained dogs.

The two men, 48-year-old Mike Matson and 21-year-old Richard Frank Keyes III, had left the Republic's remote headquarters separately.

Republic leader Richard McLaren and his wife, Evelyn, were indicted on charges of defrauding businesses out of hundreds of thousands of dollars with phony money. Several followers also were indicted.

Although officials would not release the name of the man killed, he was described as middle-aged.

"Yeah, that's my brother," said Ralph Matson, brother of Mike Matson, after being read a description of the victim.

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**The deterrence triad**

The indictment of Nahum Manbar, a businessman and former paratroop officer, for knowingly assisting Iran's chemical weapons program, is so shocking as to be almost unbelievable. It is hard to imagine a greater betrayal of one's country. If the allegations are true, then the Vanunu affair and other security breaches in Israel's history pale in comparison.

Whatever the court decides, this case and the recent reports of a Russian general's assistance to the Syrian chemical weapons program are wake-up calls regarding the growing non-conventional threats in the region.

The Russian case features one Gen. Anatoly Kuntsevich, who until recently was President Boris Yeltsin's personal adviser on chemical disarmament, and who reportedly played a key role in Syria's development of a new form of nerve agent, called VX. This new nerve agent is considered more dangerous than existing compounds, because it is harder to defend against; it can be absorbed through the skin, so gas masks are largely ineffective against it.

These cases illustrate that nations without the technical know-how to develop the most sophisticated non-conventional weapons can simply pay unscrupulous people to provide what they need. It has often been stated that Iraq, despite the devastating bombardment during the Gulf War and the tightest-ever inspection regime since, retains the most important element of its nuclear program: the know-how to do it again.

When the Soviet Union collapsed, many thought that nuclear weapons would almost immediately find their way to nations such as Iran, with the money and burning desire to become nuclear powers. Even before the Soviet collapse, experts warned for years that the "nuclear club" would grow exponentially as nuclear technology became commonplace. All it took, they said, was a bright physics student and the rest could be found in libraries — and now over the Internet.

As it turns out, non-conventional weaponry has spread much less rapidly than was predicted. Still, the trend is clear, and in one direction. The elaborate web of treaties, customs agents, and intelligence services arrayed to stop the flow of deadly technology to rogue regimes has made a difference, but is fighting a losing battle. Computers that were once labeled "supercomputers" and could only be exported to certain countries with a round-the-clock guard are now a short time away from being available on every desktop. In any case, most of the US nuclear arsenal was designed on computers that today would fit in a briefcase.

Despite this, there are certain "chokepoint" technologies that are, for good reason, controlled by the West. But most of the painstaking

ing and necessary efforts of the West to put the non-conventional weapons genie back in the bottle can be thwarted by a handful of people willing to sell out to the highest bidder. The battle against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction must be waged, but strategic planners must assume that it will only buy time.

In a sense, much of this battle is already over. Chemical weapons — "the poor man's nuke" — are held by practically all of the world's most aggressive and dangerous regimes. If not now, then soon, lack of capability will not stand between Israel and a massive chemical attack from Iran, Iraq, Syria, or Libya; the playing field has shifted to what strategists call "mutual deterrence." For decades, such a system allowed millions of Russians and Americans to sleep at night with nuclear weapons pointed at their heads. Now Israelis are supposed to rest easy knowing that their undeclared nuclear force stands opposite the chemical weapon-tipped missiles pointed at Israel.

This head-to-head matching of Arab chemical and reported Israeli nuclear weapons was alluded to recently, from the other side, by Syrian President Hafez Assad in Cairo. Assad's charge that Israel had no right to complain about Syria's new VX nerve agent given, he said, Israel's nuclear arsenal, was the most direct juxtaposition of the two forces to date.

Some analysts are so confident in Israel's deterrent capability, that they have even called the joint US-Israeli Arrow missile program a waste — because the Arrow is designed to shoot down missiles that will never be launched. Such talk is incredibly foolhardy. Israel cannot afford to rely completely on the MAD (mutually assured destruction) theory of deterrence that was followed by the United States and the Soviet Union.

Defenses add to deterrence by reducing the likelihood of success of an attack, and are critical to reducing the damage if deterrence fails.

In addition, former prime ministers Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin both argued that the peace process is essentially in a race against the increasing non-conventional capabilities of Israel's enemies. It would be naive to argue that a comprehensive peace between Israel and most of the Arab world would induce the countries that threaten Israel to abandon their quest for the bomb. Iran and Iraq would likely have such programs even if Israel did not exist.

Peres and Rabin were right however, that peace treaties with Arab nations do have a role in Israel's deterrent system against a non-conventional attack. The ability to retaliate massively and to defend against attack are two legs of the triad of deterrence. The third is the pursuit of peace treaties that contribute to making such an attack as unthinkable as possible.



**Perceptions of the past**

JAY BUSHINSKY

Deir Yassin, the Palestinian village laid waste by dissident Jewish forces 49 years ago, conjures up some of the darkest and most painful chapters in this country's tragic history of Arab-Jewish conflict and bloodshed.

Physically, the village no longer exists; but it survives in the historical memories of both peoples. To the Palestinians, it is the everlasting symbol of their national tragedy — the scene of wanton bloodshed triggering the mass exodus that culminated in the still-festering Arab refugee problem.

For the Israelis, it is the propaganda vehicle used to discredit their military reputation, undermine their political sovereignty and, above all, challenge their morality and national honor.

In anticipation of the incident's 50th anniversary, a group of Palestinians and Jordanians, led by Americans sympathetic to the Deir Yassin victims, wants to erect a memorial at the site dedicated to the 250 villagers killed there. The project was very sensitively described by my good friend and colleague Rami G. Khouri, a distinguished Jordanian journalist, in a recent column in Ha'aretz.

One of Khouri's most salient points was that the memorial's location would be perfect from the standpoint of Arab-Jewish relations because it would be clearly visible from Yad Vashem on the other side of an intervening ravine. That is highly debatable; it suggests that the bloodletting at Deir Yassin and the Holocaust were of the same magnitude.

Even more troubling, however, is Khouri's account of that fateful day, April 9, 1948, and, above all, its alleged culmination: the transport of 50-odd male survivors through the streets of Jewish

Jerusalem amid a cheering crowd, and their execution "in cold blood" at a local quarry.

That purported episode would classify the Deir Yassin operation, initiated by the militant IZL and Stern Gang, as a crime against humanity on a par with SS captain Erich Priebke's massacre of 335 Italian Jews and partisans in the Ardeatine Caves outside Rome in August, 1944. It might have led to a war crimes trial during or immediately after Israel's struggle for

**A Deir Yassin memorial? We cannot object, but we must not let the truth be distorted**

independence. But it didn't. Because Khouri's historiography is wrong.

Gabriel Zifroni, the veteran Israeli journalist who was in Jerusalem covering the grisly events at the time, recalls seeing Red Cross trucks carrying the Deir Yassin survivors to Mandelbaum's house, where the Haganah has its forward positions, after which "they were allowed to cross to the Arab side."

He detected "a degree of relief, if not outright satisfaction, on some people's faces, perhaps because of the preceding slaughters of Palestinian Jews." But Amir dismissed the notion of mass executions in a local quarry

as false. Ironically, Amir translated Dominique Lapierre's and Larry Collins's *O Jerusalem!* into Hebrew. Their text contains a shocking account of the attack on Deir Yassin, including bestial acts by the Jewish combatants, but makes no mention of the alleged executions.

The succinct and factual version contained in *Israel, Army and Defense*, a military lexicon by respected Ha'aretz military analyst Ze'ev Schiff and Eitan Haber, prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's former political adviser, tells of a dawn attack by a Jewish force numbering 130 preceded by an unsuccessful effort to notify the villagers to evacuate their homes.

In his memoir entitled *The Revolt*, Menachem Begin, the IZL's supreme commander, writes that the loudspeaker's message did reach the local "women, children and elderly persons" for whom it was intended; those who heeded it survived. Neither the lexicon nor the memoir refers to the alleged executions.

In any case, the village was taken after a Haganah unit was called in to help secure it. Reflecting on the tragedy and on the idea of putting up a memorial at the now-nonexistent village site, a Palestinian friend of mine mused the other day, "I think all of us would be better advised to look forward to the future, rather than backward into the past."

He attributed the Deir Yassin memorial project to the zeal of the American sympathizers rather than to local Palestinian initiative. "I see no sense in linking it, even via visual proximity, to the Holocaust," my friend said. In my opinion, he is right.

The writer is a veteran foreign correspondent.

**Plan for war, avert war**

SHLOMO GAZIT

Over time, it has been my privilege to take responsibility for formulating some 10 different intelligence assessments. So I am, to say the least, very familiar with the process.

It's a methodical one, spread out over a number of weeks. In it, one moves gradually from the specific to the general, then back again. We studied each of our Arab neighbors from every angle — policy, aspirations, plans, degree of military preparedness. Then we examined the whole intra-Arab network, and the connection between events in our region and those outside it.

In the intelligence assessments I was involved in, we were not required to deal with Israel's input into all this. Back then Israel was a passive element, exerting influence only in the image it projected to the other side, particularly regarding the balance of power, both in overall strength and in terms of each specific military branch, force, means of combat, and so on.

Today, things are different. In today's Middle East the factor that most influences upcoming events is not the Arab side, but ours. It is Israel's policies, Israel's actions and errors.

A year ago, the nation elected a new government and a new policy in a 180-degree turnaround from the course we had been headed on until then.

Any objective intelligence assessment, then, must address this significant change of direction, as well as the ramifications resulting from the choice Israel has set before its Arab neighbors: resumption and continuation of the political process under conditions

and stress that they must plan — right up to the front line — for the coming challenge.

Israel should act immediately to improve its military readiness. This clearly affects both the defense budget and its distribution.

The need to raise the level of preparation and drilling by combat units in all branches of the military will have repercussions on the size of the reserve call-up this coming year, and on how it is utilized.

All crucial combat equipment must immediately be supplied; ammunition stores must be replenished and spare parts restocked. At the same time, the utmost must be done to prepare the home front for anticipated missile attacks, for attacks using conventional warheads, and even — heaven forbid — for chemical and biological attacks.

These preparations in anticipation of a possible violent confrontation are clearly and primarily required to rout the enemy, should battle be imposed on us. But these preparations — and there is no question that the Arab side will see what we are up to — may also serve to deter the other side and actually prevent hostilities with an Arab side already wavering over the military option.

Israel has changed political course, but it has not yet begun to take the next, preparatory steps. What we need now is an open and courageous assessment of the situation; the necessary measures will follow as a result. In the end, only he who plans well for war may prevent war.

The writer is a former head of military intelligence.

**POSTSCRIPTS**

**IT WILL BE** remembered as the day cow itch forced Parliament to shut down.

Caymen Islands lawmakers adjourned early one day recently after someone apparently smeared a "cow itch" plant over a jacket worn by Leader of Government Business Truman Bodden in the House.

Cow itch, or trumpeter vine, is similar to poison ivy and causes a burning sensation, rash and severe itching when it comes in contact with skin.

**BURGLARS WHO** raided an impotence clinic in Melbourne may have grabbed more than they can handle: drugs that cause five-day erections.

"We are looking for someone who is very embarrassed or very tired," a police spokesman said. The thieves took dozens of bottles of drugs used to treat impotence. The drugs, which can cause an erection lasting up to five days, are not fatal.

**MAN BITES** dog ... to death.

Armin John Kudinow of Lake Oswego, Oregon, was sentenced to 18 months in prison for ramming a police car with his pickup, throwing a knife at officers and biting a police dog.

The dog later died from an infection, and police believe the bite was to blame.

Police had sent the dog after Kudinow, and when it tried to bite his arm, Kudinow bit the dog's nose.

**Dotty diagnosis**

BOB WIEMER

Sick people aren't funny. But some of the rules governing the treatment of the mentally ill in the American workplace are the very stuff of farce.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which promulgated those rules last month, has been termed a "flak catcher," an employee or agency that absorbs criticism and even vilification, so elected officials can avoid political discomfort.

In this case, the EEOC is getting Congress out of a very uncomfortable position.

The Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 is an unwieldy mishmash of noble sentiment, high hopes, and cynical accommodation to the notion that euphemism triumphs over all.

Thus, under its definitions, no one is crippled and no one is handicapped in this society. There are only challenged people, who, with a little help, can be just like everyone else.

The Americans With Disabilities Act renders that nice, but sappy, sentiment into law. Congress enacted the law because it was easier than facing the lobbying tactics of the disabled.

Marshaling a mass of twisted bodies on gurneys and in wheelchair is such an effective technique that the disabled seldom leave Washington without the law they came for. That's why bathroom accommodations and parking spaces for the handicapped far outnumber the people who need them.

In extending this workplace equality to psychotics, Congress magisterially declared it law and left the development of regulations up to the EEOC, thus letting the commission take the blame for the bill drafters' idiocies.

**Neurotic rules for workplace neurosis**

This is customary. It is also why the bureaucrats who staff such regulatory agencies have such awesome power.

Among the regulations promulgated last week are these: Employers may not ask potential employees if they are mentally ill or if they have a history of mental illness. Nor can they ask employees who are known to be mentally sick if they have been taking their medications.

Nonetheless, employers must make a "reasonable accommodation" to any acute-stage behavior that might pop up on the job.

Thus an employee who is rude to coworkers or comes to work looking dirty or disheveled can't be routinely disciplined provided he or she can convince a therapist that the behavior arises out of any item on a constantly expanding list of mental and emotional diseases.

IN HIS short essay, titled "On the Verge of Dementia Praecox," humorist Robert Benchley feared he was coming down with that malady because one of the symptoms is an inability to concentrate. Benchley confessed that someone could sit on his chest and shout in his face and still not get his attention.

Under EEOC regulations, an employer would be required to make the workplace more accommodating to someone like Benchley by installing soundproofing or erecting partitions or other visual barriers to enhance concentration.

What's more, the regulations forbid the employer from disclosing a worker's mental problems.

So when people who behave strangely are getting what seem to be special perks — including soundproofed, private work spaces, schedule changes, job coaches or time off — other employees are left to take up the slack and wonder about what's going on.

(The EEOC would like us to believe that such discretion is necessary to protect the sick workers. That's not the only consideration: Once the word gets out that sickness brings perks, everybody will be running off to therapists to get a positive diagnosis of dottiness.)

The workplace trend toward using independent contractors and casual part-timers can only be exacerbated by these regulations. Where's the fairness in that?

And just where will the EEOC and the courts draw the line on public safety?

Will melancholy pilots or bus drivers be allowed to work? And if not, what about suicidal trailer-truck drivers?

(Newsday)

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

DR. QADI

Sir, — As a medical practitioner on a short visit to study medical services in Jerusalem and the West Bank, I was shocked to read that my colleague, Dr. Samir Qadi, the director of the Ahli Hospital in Hebron, had been arrested for masterminding an Arab terror squad that has murdered 11 people. Dr. Qadi appears at all human-rights forums and his name is well-known throughout Europe. What further shocks me is that, when I called his wife in their village of Tzurif, she expressed pride in her husband's actions and readily admitted that he had indeed been involved in such murder activities.

It would seem to me that the international medical and human-rights community should demand an immediate condemnation for Dr. Qadi, who, contrary to his Hippocratic oath, has taken lives instead of saving them.

DR. OTTO ANDERSON  
Ramat Rahel (Oslo, Norway).

'ANIMAL FARM'

Sir, — It was almost with a sense of awe that I listened to MK Uzi Landau on the radio, while he whined that "everyone" was out to get Prime Minister Netanyahu's government. To hear him talk, the list of evil persecutors, including the police, the judiciary, the news media, radio and television, half the Knesset, and the devil knows who else, is so long it's amazing there's anyone left who isn't!

I think that this sordid business should initiate a movement towards more responsible government in Israel, a system in which the undemocratic immunities which MKs and government officials have so brazenly arrogated to themselves are eliminated completely.

TREVOR DAVIS  
Aseret.

SHULAMIT ADLER

Sir, — Shulamit Aloni's new book, *Couldn't Do It Differently* (April 10), reminded me of the days when she taught Hebrew in the 1950s at my old school, Whittingehame College in Brighton, England.

Whittingehame College was then a famous all-Jewish boys school, with excellent secular studies. But its teaching of Judaism was nonexistent, and most of its pupils subsequently married out. Shulamit Aloni (then Shulamit Adler), who was famed even then as a forceful advocate for a de-judaized extreme leftist secularism of the highest degree, found a comfortable niche under the school's headmaster, Jacob Halevi, the famous Israeli educator.

Even in those early days of the State of Israel she was disliked by many of the Israeli boys for her overtly anti-Zionist, pro-Arab stance.

DR. WILLY GOLDBERG  
Tel Aviv.

CONVERSION

Sir, — Lisa Rubin (Letters, April 17) lashes out at Israeli law for not recognizing her as a Jew. She should reserve her anger for the Reform authorities which led her through a conversion they knew would be unacceptable. No matter how Jewish she feels, no matter how many Friday night services she attends, neither in Israel nor in America can her children marry a Jew in a traditional Orthodox ceremony. Thus a pernicious division has been created.

If she really is interested in being considered Jewish, the procedure for her to follow is straightforward.

LUBA CHAZA JOSEPHS  
Tel Aviv.

PRAYER FOR UNITY

Sir, — I recently received a call from several of my rabbinic colleagues at the Rabbinical Assembly Convention in Boston. A number of Conservative rabbis feel that it would be appropriate to recite at the Seder a prayer for the unity of the Jewish people. They are urging all rabbis and members of Conservative, Reform, Orthodox and Reconstructionist congregations to do so.

A prayer for this effect will be recited at *yahatz* after the matza is broken. Our Seder meal will not conclude until the missing piece of matza is found and brought back to the table. The matza, when restored, demonstrates the desire of our people to be one people together in peace.

RABBI DAVID GEFKEN,  
Temple Israel

Scranton, Pennsylvania.

ANTI-LITTER LAW

Sir, — The new anti-litter law is an important step forward, if it is enforced. That is the big question. Here in Rehovot, for example, there are numerous places with large signs proclaiming that the deposit of litter is prohibited and that violators of this regulation will be prosecuted. But nowhere will you find so much litter as in the area adjacent to the signs.

Not a single person, however, has ever been prosecuted for this offense. The same "immunity" also exists for those who illegally paste up their posters on every wall and bus shelter in town. No action is taken against them, even when it is patently clear — as is the case with the Habad Messiah posters — which organization is responsible for the violation.

Let us hope that the new law is enforced more vigorously, starting, perhaps, in Rehovot.

NECHEMIA MEYERS  
Rehovot.

GRAPEVINE

New title for a prince

By GREER FAY CASHMAN
Frequently referred to as a prince in the Likud context, by virtue of being the son of...



'Knighted': Ze'ev B. Begin (Israel Sun)

recognition of his commitment to principle, his responsibility to the voters who elected him and the integrity he displayed when he resigned as minister of science.

THE MOST politically incorrect thing to do in Israel is to arrive on time. At least one of the guests invited last week to the Onix pub in Jaffa to celebrate the birthday of Anne Pollard, ex-wife of convicted US spy for Israel Jonathan Pollard, came at the stated starting time only to discover that neither the hostess nor any of the other guests had arrived.

SUCH A refreshing change to have a non-government scandal. The disposal of the estate of tycoon Shaul Eisenberg who died in March is the sort of stuff that soap operas are made of, and the Hebrew media is having a real field day speculating whether his disinherited daughter Esther Zochovitsky will sue for her share or not.

Meanwhile Esther's mother Leah Eisenberg, who has accused her son of trying to obliterate his father's memory, has no such reservations and has asked her lawyer Jacob Weinroth, who recently represented Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in the Bar-On Affair, to appeal to the court to award her half of the estate in accordance with Israeli law.

A POLISH National Day celebration was hosted at the



Bette Midler: Mature mama

Ramada Hotel, Tel Aviv by Ambassador Wojciech Adamiecki. The venue, vodka and herring were reminiscent of the days following restoration of the days following relations, when diplomatic relations, when Poland was still under Communist rule.

before midnight, the couple decided to go and socialize before becoming couch potatoes. SPEAKING OF Britain, Tony Blair who triumphed so convincingly at the polls, got the best and most unusual birthday present that anyone could want. How many other people in the world can claim to have been given a premiership for their birthday? Britain's new prime minister turned 44 yesterday, when wishes such as, "many happy returns" suddenly took on a whole new meaning.

FOREBODING WEATHER forecasts with predictions of rain threatened to put a damper on South African Freedom Day celebrations last Saturday night. But optimism and courage prevailed in the palatial garden of South African Ambassador Frank Land and his wife Maatchen who stood for hours greeting and bidding farewell to the hundreds of guests who filled through and dined on boewors, the South African national sausage plus smoked salmon and other delicacies.

Among the large representation of South Africans expats living in Israel was building consultant and former Machalnik David Reperson who is putting together a book about the volunteers who came from overseas to fight in the War of Independence. Non-South Africans included former attorney-general Michael Ben Yair, former religious affairs minister Shimon Shitreet



Sharon Stone: Princess-to-be?

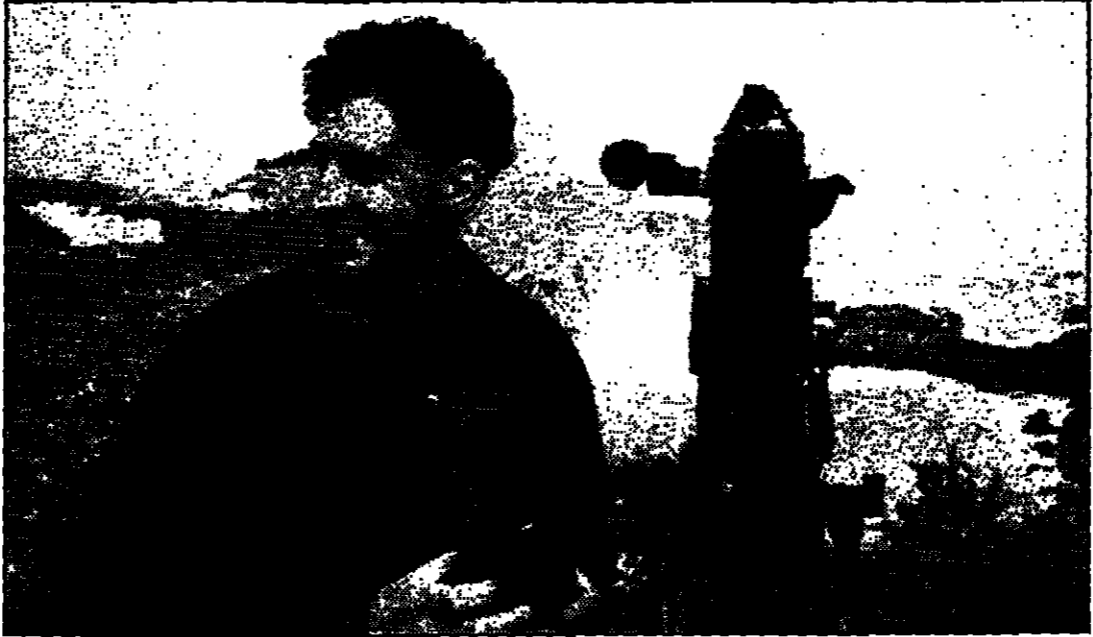
who engaged in animated conversation with international marriage broker Helena Amram, fashion compères and model agency proprietors Ilana Margalit and Shalva Ben Gal, Tel Aviv mayor Roni Milo and scores of diplomats.

AT ALMOST every function to which they are invited, Brazilian ambassador Pedro Paulo Pinto Assumpcao and Cypriot ambassador Petros Eftychiou go off into a corner for a tete a tete. The reason? Assumpcao is soon to be appointed non-resident ambassador of Cyprus, joining close to a dozen other Israel-based envoys, mostly from Latin America, who have been accredited to both countries.

THE LOVE life of Chelsea Clinton could pose some interesting problems. The only daughter of the president of the United States reportedly has a Jewish boyfriend by the name of Mark Margulies. According to The Philadelphia Daily News, as quoted in Ma'ariv, Chelsea, who was accepted by several leading American universities, chose to enroll at Stanford in order to be close to Mark. If the romance develops into a permanent relationship, the couple might opt for either a civil or an ecclesiastical ceremony. But then again, Chelsea might convert. Considering who she is, there's bound to be a contest between Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis to attract the First Daughter to their particular stream of Judaism.

AFTER A series of widely publicized romances, it seems that Sharon Stone 39, could celebrate her 40th birthday with the title of royal highness. The prince who may make this possible is Prince Albert of Monaco, 37, long hailed as the most eligible bachelor in Europe. Albert's dad Prince Ranier also married a blonde film star, Grace Kelly, in what was then termed the fairy-tale wedding of the century.

HANKERING FOR another crack at motherhood is Bette Midler. With women in their 60s now giving birth, Midler, 51, and her realtor husband Martin von Hasselberg to whom she has been married for 12 years, believe that they are prime candidates for parenthood. Midler, who has undergone fertility treatment, has had two miscarriages in the past two years, but is hopeful that she'll be luckier the next time around.



Journey into the past: Filmmaker Gregori Viens in Rhodes shooting a documentary on the 'Island of Rhodes.'

Beaches and balads from Rhodes to LA

Jewish immigrants from Rhodes have made a second home off the shores of Los Angeles. A new film documents their history, Tom Tugend reports

Every summer, more than 100 Jewish immigrants from Rhodes, accompanied by their Los Angeles-born children and grandchildren, take the ferry to the island of Catalina, off the coast of Los Angeles.

There they frolic on the beaches and feast on the home-baked delicacies of their ancestral Mediterranean island. The outing is like a voyage into the past, says Mati Franco. "With its hills, beaches and small towns, Catalina is a lot like Rhodes."

Even in the melting pot of America, the Rhodesis (as they are known) cling and revel in their Sephardic heritage and the memories of Rhodes, transmitting their culture to their children and grandchildren.

"Life in Rhodes was charming, with a lot of freedom and joy. Ninety percent of the songs were love balads and the culture was very Mediterranean," says Franco, whose mother, Rebecca Apato Levy, virtually serves as an institutional memory of what was once the small but thriving Jewish community on the Greek island off the Turkish coast.

The 85-year-old Levy is a central figure in a striking documentary film produced and directed by her grandson, Gregori Viens, and titled Island of Rhodes: The Jews of Rhodes in Los Angeles. The first Jews settled in Rhodes centuries before the common era and their presence is mentioned in ancient Roman documents.

In the years before World War I, the number of Jews peaked at 5,000 (among a total population of 75,000) and supported six synagogues. When Italy replaced the Ottoman Empire as the ruling power on Rhodes in 1912, and with the outbreak of World War I, more than half the Jewish community emigrated to South Africa, Latin America and the United States.

During the first two decades of this century, Jewish emigrants from Rhodes established close-knit communities on the east and west coasts of the US, and today there are an estimated 10,000 Rhodesis and their descendants in America. Of these, around 4,000-5,000 live in New York, 3,000 in Los Angeles, 1,500 in Atlanta and 1,000 in Seattle. A distinguished member of the New York community is Rabbi Marc Angel, president of the Union of Sephardic

Congregations and spiritual leader of the famous Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue. The Rhodesis of Los Angeles tend to stick together, geographically and socially. Mati Franco, whose Hebrew name is Mazal Tov, says most of her friends are from the Rhodes community, but the ties go beyond friendship.

"All of us from Rhodes are related to each other, we are all close or distant relatives," she says. "If you come to one of our meetings or celebrations, everyone is hugging and kissing each other." Among the younger Rhodesis, marriages with Ashkenazi spouses are becoming more common, but it wasn't always that way.

Franco remembers her father-in-law talking about his youthful courtship of an Ashkenazi girl. "Her family wouldn't accept him as a Jew because he spoke Ladino instead of Yiddish and didn't like matza-ball soup," she recounts.

"It was only when he asked for a prayer book and read from it in Hebrew that her family was reluctantly convinced. By that time, my father-in-law was so disgusted that he dropped the girl."

Asked whether Sephardim, who were the first Jews to settle in North America and were the early

"grandees" of the Jewish community, felt a sense of superiority toward the Ashkenazi newcomers, Franco responded: "No, I've never encountered that. However we at times feel under-appreciated for our contributions to Jewish religion and culture."

Ladino, or Judeo-Spanish, continues to play a role in the lives of the first and second generations of Rhodesis immigrants and is used in synagogue services, alongside Hebrew and English.

Indeed, the family matriarch Rebecca Amato Levy, like other Rhodes-born immigrants, is multilingual, reflecting the different eras in the history of her native island.

"My mother speaks Greek, Turkish, Italian, Ladino, Hebrew and English," notes Franco. Levy is the author, in Ladino, of the book / Remember Rhodes. This polyglot background is reflected in the Island of Rhodes documentary, where interviewees respond occasionally in Ladino or French.

Franco, who served as the film's co-producer with her son Gregori, recounts that he initially started the project as an oral history of his grandmother. It evolved into a "glorified home movie" and ended up as a professional 55-minute documentary, which has won a number of film awards.

Rebecca Amato Levy, 85-year-old grandmother of the filmmaker, is a living history of the Jews of Rhodes.

Not Page One



Miss Zaftig By Sam Orbaum

It was over when the fat lady cried. Miss Fat Israel was crowned on Saturday night in Beersheba in a beauty contest of epic proportions. The 20 finalists came in all shapes and sizes: large, larger, zaftig.

How do you get in shape for a contest like this? You guessed it: "I ate," laughed Anat Peretz, who didn't chow down enough to make the final five. A buffet table, set up backstage for the girls, was picked clean. Mind you, they didn't nibble on carrot sticks or peck at lettuce leaves: this was a full-force pig-out - a vat of cholent, halla, mounds of cake and salads heavy on the mayo.

"The stress here is fat," said Yehudit Karman, a wide 30-year-old blonde. "Beauty is secondary. As you can see, fatties can be pretty."

"What you see here is the antithesis of classical beauty," said Daniella Shamgar with admirable diplomacy, considering her foxy figure. "This woman had a lot of nerve coming here: Shamgar, who made aliyah five years ago, was Miss Holland in 1987, and still looks it.

Shamgar was one of the 17 judges. Yeah, 17. (They could have downsized the jury to just one, me. I picked the winner the moment I laid eyes on her.) The panel included the requisite officials from sponsoring companies, lawyers, local dignitaries,

my gut I knew that beauty was not only for the thin. As I see it, beautiful women are either fat or thin; nothing in between."

Proud of her discerning eye, she consented to guess the frontrunners: "Iris Gur, Sivanit Slik, Gila Mamo, Ruti Peretz, Yaffi Ohayon: one of those will win."

As the clock ticked down to the start of the contest, tension gnawed at the contestants. They paced, preened, noshed, joked. Two ladies, worn down by the excitement, yawned. Others practiced their smiles. "Oh, God, I'm so nervous I can feel myself getting thin," Bela Berl moaned.

Anat Peretz and Ruti Peretz responded to the onstage music with a spirited dance. "What great fun," Anat said to gales of laughter that broke the tension. "Two fat ladies dancing together." (The music was naturally selected to theme, but although they did play "I Love You Just the Way You Are," regrettably they chose for the crowning "Isn't She Lovely" rather than the more obvious "Big Girls Don't Cry.")

Ten minutes to showtime. Iris Gur, tall and big-boned rather than plump, announced that: "If I win, I'm going on a crash diet." A couple of others ruzzed her, and a skinny flower girl said, with little sincerity, that she wished she were fat.

Ohayon, a sumptuous raven-haired beauty, nodded in the direction of Mamo. "She's going

As the clock ticked down to the start of the contest, tension gnawed at the contestants. "Oh, God, I'm so nervous, I can feel myself getting thin," moaned a hopeful Miss Fat Israel.

plus actor Ze'ev Revach, celebrated fatty Fanny Rachi (sadly down to 108 kg, from a proud 123) and Miss Israel 1997, Mirit Greenberg.

The jumbos on stage had no reason to be envious of Greenberg, who looked ridiculously out of place among them. Greenberg, a sexless waiflike string-bean who looks like a pre-teen, weighs in at 54 kg, almost half the magnitude of one contestant, the very scenic Yaffi Ohayon (105 kg).

For many of these lumpy lovelies, winning would be a mere bonus: the real victory was standing on stage, proud and dignified, basking in the applause and wolf-whistles of the packed 700-seat Hechal Hatarbut.

Bolstered by each other's support, reveling in their good humor and remarkable warmth, no one here felt shame or humiliation or disgust at being fat.

And while they paraded about in their portly splendor, their husbands, none of them Adonises themselves, had to appreciate them for being precisely what they are.

Fanny Rachi (a name that, you should pardon me, seems to mean "soft tushy") was resplendent in a large, silky, yellow pantsuit for which there was, apparently not enough material to reach her upper chest. Nevertheless, what she concealed that was of greatest interest to this journalist, was her judgment. "OK, I'll tell you. Number 20 [Mirit Levy] is too thin. Number 12 [Ohayon] is gorgeous. Number 14 [Gila Mamo] has personality."

So that none of the paying public should go home disappointed, there was plenty of flesh on show: pupkies and pulkes and cleavage.

But that was entirely the property of five lithe showgirls who punctuated the program with dance numbers ranging from belly-dancing to cabaret. (In addition, a man and woman performed some wondrous tumbling acts - with her as the tumblee. The woman freaked out the contestants with incredible contortionist moves, prompting chunky Ohayon to mumble, "Oy, I gotta try that tonight.")

The contestants themselves were modestly dressed. Sorry, guys, no bikinis, no swimsuit competition. They started out with rose-patterned loose frocks, changed into pantsuits and then later, lacy white evening wear. The idea was not to hide the girls, but not to let it all bust out either.

Esterika Nagid, the dynamic impresario who put on this show, described how it came to be. "I organize lots of beauty contests and fashion shows, but always I knew something was amiss. In

to win. She's beautiful inside and out," Ohayon, a favorite herself, admitted she didn't want to be fat.

Five minutes to go. Joe Lev, one of the tuxedoed chaperones, evoked fantasies in every woman there. However, the tanned 22-year-old Italian, blessed with wit, charm, intelligence and Romeoque beauty, was unavailable. "Let's be honest," he said in an undertone. "They're fat." He picked Kalanit Rakovsky - probably the thinnest of them all - to win. "She's the most beautiful. Fat with a figure. But Ruti Peretz has the sweetest smile."

Lev said it had been hard to work with them "because they're not professional models. They've never done this before."

Time! An official hurried in. "Alright, ladies, this is it. Everyone shut off your cell phones!"

The ladies marched out on stage and the crowd went nuts. It soon became apparent why: Ruti Peretz had filled the hall with her entire hamula - every time she moved, she got a standing ovation. Nobody resented her, though, because she was such a sweetie.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, the five finalists!" Iris Gur, 31, 1.75 tall, green eyes, curly brown hair, a full-bodied beauty.

Fabianna Birendorf, 28, 1.78, big brown eyes, short brown hair, svelte with padding.

Gila Mamo, 29, 1.70, dazzling green eyes, red hair, every bit of her huggable.

Ruti Peretz, 35, 1.70, crisp blue eyes, blonde hair, ultimate proof that fat people tend to be jolly.

Yaffi Ohayon, 23, 1.72, exotic brown eyes, a cloud of black hair, a veritable eyeful. In the end, it was no contest, really: Peretz, from nearby Lehavim, brought the house down when she was named Miss Congeniality. And finally... Miss Fat Israel 1997... Beersheba's own pride and joy... Gila Mamo!

## BUSINESS

in brief

### Non-kosher McDonald's at Ramat Aviv Mall

Africa Israel has decided to honor its original agreement with McDonald's Israel to allow the fast food franchise to open a non-kosher restaurant in the Ramat Aviv Mall.  
The matter of Shabbat hours, however, remains open, and depends on the agreement signed with Israel Theaters. Africa Israel is about to decide whether or not to approve the Shabbat opening of the cinemas.  
*Elazar Levin, Globes*

### Israel's Samurai bond offer delayed

Israel's first entry into the Japanese Samurai bond market has been delayed. Accountant-General Shai Talmon said yesterday. The delay is attributed to the Japanese Finance Ministry's ongoing investigation into the activities of Nomura Securities Co. Ltd., allegedly guilty of making transactions in breach of the country's Securities and Exchange Law.  
If current rumors are true, planned sanctions against Nomura would prevent Israel's bonds from being distributed among institutional investors in an optimal way.  
Israel wants to draw as much attention as possible to its planned issue and would rather wait until the Nomura scandal has faded, according to Talmon. The issue, in which the Treasury intends raising some 15-20 million yen, is likely to take place later this year.  
*David Harris*

### Livnat: Reconsider Turbowicz for Bezeq

The requirement of a cooling-off period for senior government officials who want to move into other positions should be reassessed, Communications Minister Limor Livnat said yesterday in asking Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to consider the matter.  
Livnat's nominee for Bezeq director-general, Dr. Yoram Turbowicz, was rejected by a judicial cooling-off panel in March unless he waited a year after leaving the Anti-Trust Authority; Turbowicz decided not to appeal the decision, and Ami Erel was appointed instead.  
*Judy Siegel*

### Israel-Turkey trade expected to double

With the introduction of free trade on May 1, trade volume between Israel and Turkey is expected to double this year, according to Israel-Turkey Business Council chairman Pini Peled.  
Bilateral trade totalled \$450 million last year, excluding military deals. In the first quarter this year the figure reached \$150m.  
*David Harris*

### Suissa joins municipal demonstrators

Senior officials in the Union of Local Authorities held a protest outside the Prime Minister's Office yesterday as they step up their campaign against planned legislation combatting pay excesses in the public sector. Joining the demonstrators, Interior Minister Eli Suissa threatened to resign if more funding is not made available to municipalities. Suissa is expected to vote against the Treasury-originated proposals when they come to the cabinet in the coming days.  
*David Harris*

### UK trade mission to visit this month

The British-Israel Chamber of Commerce is bringing a trade mission here for a six-day visit starting May 18. Fifteen companies will be in the delegation, including Murradtech Generators Ltd., Severn Trent Water International Ltd., and Universal Alloys & Metals Ltd.  
*David Harris*

## Bezeq seeks OK for phone-rate rise

By JUDY SIEGEL

Bezeq intends to ask the Knesset Finance Committee for permission to change its rate structure, raising some charges and lowering others.  
The company's new director-general, Ami Erel, told reporters yesterday that when the Knesset returns from spring vacation later this month, Bezeq will ask for a graduated increase in bi-monthly service fees by 7.8% to 47%, depending on the amount of outgoing calls (infrequent users would pay much less).  
The charges for local services, excluding the bi-monthly service fee, would increase by 3.1%;

domestic calls would be 8.5% cheaper; the cheaper rates would begin at 6 p.m. instead of 8 p.m., and all intercity rates would have a single rate, rather than cheaper ones from outlying towns.  
In addition, Bezeq wants to lower rates for most services between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. to benefit the commercial sector.  
Erel said these structural changes were vital for Bezeq to face competition and simplify rates.  
Bezeq officials said this would make Bezeq services the cheapest throughout the day and night compared to rates charged by local phone companies and for international calls.

## Heineken-Tempo deal fizzles out

### Minority shareholder Podhorzer refuses to renew CEO's buy option

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The ostensibly concluded deal by which Dutch beer giant Heineken was to take over Netanyahu-based Tempo Beer Industries was dealt a sudden and potentially fatal blow yesterday, when minority shareholder Moshe Podhorzer backtracked from his intention to sell his 45.5 percent stake in the company to chairman Jack Beer and Heineken.  
Beer's option to purchase Podhorzer's stake expired Saturday, and Podhorzer's announcement said he would not renew it.  
Podhorzer's options agreement was conditional on Heineken's acquisition of control in Tempo. Heineken executives are due to

arrive in Israel in the coming days in a bid to re-open negotiations, but Podhorzer stressed he will not reach agreement with them under the present terms.  
A number of weeks ago, Heineken and Beer requested a month's extension from Podhorzer to close the details of an arrangement between them.  
Podhorzer said from now on he will look to keep the company under domestic control, despite the possibility that a strategic international partner could be of benefit.  
The original idea was that once the shares were bought, Tempo would be split into two companies, one of which would focus on the beer market, while the other would deal with non-alcoholic beverages, specifically Pepsi's. Heineken was to control the beer company, which is the source of most of Tempo's earnings.  
In February, Podhorzer gave Heineken and Beer an option to acquire his stake in Tempo for \$42 million.  
The Beer-Bornstein Group, which includes the son of the company's founder, the late Moshe Bornstein, had committed itself to purchasing Podhorzer's shares at the offer price.  
Podhorzer made the sale of his shares conditional on them eventually winding up in the hands of Heineken and the Dutch company's holding of at least 50% of the shares in Tempo.  
Tempo sources had expressed fear that Tempo's soft drink divi-

sion would be forced to make major cutbacks after the split-up as a result of the strong competition currently prevailing in the market.  
Tempo's major soft drink competitors, Coca Cola and Jafara-Tabori, have managed to increase their share of the market in recent years at the expense of Tempo.  
The issue is the latest in a series of rows between Beer, who is married to Bornstein's daughter Rina, and director Moshe Podhorzer, who is married to Bornstein's other daughter, Bilha, and owns a controlling share in mineral-water producer Neviot, which is distributed by Tempo.  
When the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange was at an all-time low last summer, Podhorzer decided to take advantage of the situation and acquired 20% of Tempo's stock from provident and mutual funds, increasing his personal stake to 44.5%.  
The shares were acquired for a total of NIS 40.2m. One day later, Beer, who felt threatened by Podhorzer's attempts to gain control, purchased an additional 4.5% share of Tempo, increasing his holding to 51%. The additional shares were purchased at a price 250% above their market value.  
At this point Heineken threatened to pull out of its existing links with Tempo, but ultimately settled for a hastily-reached compromise which included Podhorzer's option to sell his share in Tempo to the Dutch Heineken group or the Beer group for \$42m.



### Iraqi trade fair

Iraqi Finance Minister Hikmat Azzawi is briefed on Turkish products by an Emin trading company representative. The exhibition, in which 42 firms are displaying products, opened yesterday in Baghdad and runs through Sunday.  
*(Reuters)*

## 4 Trans-Israel Highway bidders submit offers

By DAVID HARRIS

The four companies competing for the NIS 700 million contract to build the main section of the Trans-Israel Highway officially submitted their tender bids yesterday.

The consortia were invited in September to compete for the tender to build the 90-kilometer stretch from just west of Shohesh in the South to Rosh Ha'ayin in the North.

The contract will be awarded for the financing, road laying and operation of the section, which will be a toll road. The successful bidder will manage the road for 30 years.

Those competing are: Israel Transport Ventures, which is led by Transroute International (France) and Yona Group, along with Atkinson Middle East (US), Balfour Beatty (UK), Shapir, Ravad, and others.  
• Blue and White Lanes, which includes consortium leader Bouygues (France), Autostrade (Italy), Hochtief (Germany), Housing and Construction and Mashav  
• Derech Eretz Consortium, led by Africa Israel Investments Ltd. and Canadian Highways Investment Corp., together with Societe Generale d'Enterprises (France), Hughes Aircraft Systems International (US), Cofroute (France), Danya-Cebus Construction, Kfar Giladi Quarries Malibu Israel Ltd., and Alon Israel Oil Company.

• Israel Kingsway Group, fronted by Dragados (Spain) and including the Israel Corporation, Reichman Bros. (Shomron) Ltd., Ashtron Engineering Co. Ltd., and Property and Building Ltd.  
The tender is expected to be awarded before the end of this year, with work starting early in 1998.

The successful bidder must undertake to complete the project within five years.

Eventually, the minimum four-lane highway will run from just south of Kiryat Gat to Yokne'am, with possible additions to Rosh Hanikra and beyond Beersheba.

## Blair puts monetary policy in Bank of England's hands

### Chancellor Gordon Brown's historic move coupled with 0.25% rate rise

By DIRK BEVERIDGE

LONDON (AP) — New Treasury chief Gordon Brown shook Britain's monetary foundations yesterday, giving the Bank of England the power to set interest rates without permission from the government.  
On his first full business day as chancellor of the exchequer, Brown announced "the most radical internal reform to the Bank of England since it was established in 1694 — over 300 years ago." Brown, plunging into his job at lightning speed, had just moments earlier raised interest rates by a quarter point. Without quick "corrective action," Brown said, Britain would miss its inflation target of 2.5 percent next year.  
The change at the Bank of England is massive for London's

financial center, where the central bank is known as the "old lady of Threadneedle Street," but basically brings Britain more in line with monetary policy mechanisms in other rich industrialized nations.  
"Our record on inflation and interest rates over recent years is poor, while other countries with independent central banks have performed better," Brown said.  
Analysis had expected the new Labor government to nudge interest rates higher this week. Brown came through by lifting the central bank's minimum lending rate to 6.25% from 6%, even quicker than the markets had guessed, then announced any further adjustments will be made independently by the bank.  
The former Conservative chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, had for months

rejected the Bank of England's urging for higher interest rates, saying that inflation had been tamed and higher rates could slow the economic recovery.  
Bank of England Governor Eddie George had worried that inflationary pressures were growing too strong — but under the old system George could not act without the chancellor's approval.  
From now on, the Labor government will set inflation targets and then leave the central bank free to put interest rates where it chooses, Brown said after meeting in the morning with George, a day ahead of schedule.  
Despite the bank's new independence, Brown will have strong political input into the makeup of a nine-member committee that will set

interest rates. The chancellor will appoint some members directly and consult with George on the others.  
Brown is modeling the Bank of England much more closely after the US Federal Reserve — which can adjust rates even if that causes short-term political discomfort to whoever happens to be in the White House.  
"I will not shrink from the tough decisions needed to deliver stability for long-term growth," Brown said — hoping to reassure financial markets that Labor will be fiscally responsible after shifting away from its old so-called tax-and-spend policies of the 1970s when it last held power.  
"I have therefore decided to give the Bank of England operational responsibility for setting interest rates, with immediate effect," Brown said.

## Circulation down in 6 of 10 major US papers

By FARRELL KRAMER

NEW YORK (AP) — Circulation declined at six of the 10 biggest newspapers in the US during the most recent reporting period, though profits at major newspaper companies have been coming on strong.  
The circulation weakness came as the industry felt the effects of newspaper price increases and cutbacks of costly deliveries to outlying areas. While the circulation data, released to the media Monday, caused some concern, analysts

felt they were far from disastrous.  
The newspaper industry is very large and profitable, said John Morton, a newspaper industry analyst at Morton Research, although it's a disturbing long-term trend.  
Of the 10 biggest papers, only USA Today, the Los Angeles Times, Newsday and the San Francisco Chronicle posted circulation gains, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations for the six months ended March 31.  
USA Today, the US's second-biggest newspaper, saw circulation improve 2.7 percent from 1.62 million to 1.66 million.  
The Los Angeles Times had the biggest percentage gain of the top 10 — 4.7% to 1.07 million from 1.02 million. Newsday

improved 0.7% from 555,203 to 559,233, while the San Francisco Chronicle added 0.03% to 494,093.  
Circulation at the US's largest paper, The Wall Street Journal, dropped 0.2% to 1.84 million. The New York Times fell 4.4%, the biggest percentage decline in the top 10, from 1.16 million to 1.11 million.  
The Washington Post reported a 1.8% drop to 818,231 from 833,427.  
The Newspaper Association of America, an industry trade group, calculated that the bureau figures for all dailies showed a combined 1.2% circulation decline.

Circulation gains were seen in 33% of the papers, which had a total circulation of more than 51 million.

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U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.75%	5.00%	5.37%	4.75%	5.00%
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	3.87%	4.00%	4.25%	3.87%	4.00%
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.82%	1.82%	1.25%	1.82%	1.25%
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.62%	0.75%	1.00%	0.62%	0.75%
Yen (10 million yen)					

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (6.5.97)					
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS					
	Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES	Buy	Sell
Currency basket	3.8487	3.7068		3.8225	3.6825
U.S. dollar	3.3788	3.4323	3.22	3.49	3.4100
German mark	1.9588	1.9881	1.82	2.02	1.9714
French franc	5.4797	5.5881	5.38	5.85	5.5887
Japanese yen (100)	0.0265	0.0265	0.02	0.02	0.02
Dutch florin	1.7395	1.7376	1.70	1.87	1.7090
Swiss franc	2.2993	2.3394	2.25	2.37	2.3150
Spanish peseta (100)	0.4290	0.4360	0.42	0.45	0.4327
British pound	0.4735	0.4812	0.48	0.49	0.4780
Danish krone	0.5134	0.5217	0.50	0.53	0.5168
Finland mark	0.6482	0.6597	0.63	0.67	0.6538
Canadian dollar	2.4841	2.4897	2.41	2.63	2.4754
Australian dollar	2.5538	2.5677	2.58	2.71	2.5606
S. African rand	0.7580	0.7703	0.88	0.91	0.7850
Belgian franc (10)	0.9481	0.9634	0.93	0.98	0.9545
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7903	2.8232	2.73	2.87	2.8009
Italian lira (1000)	1.6762	1.6951	1.64	1.64	1.6906
Norwegian krone	4.7655	4.8424	4.70	5.03	4.8583
Israeli sheqel	0.9800	1.0500	0.98	1.05	1.0401
ECU	3.8121	3.8738			3.8415
Irish punt	0.5732	0.5851	0.58	0.58	0.5731
Spanish peseta (100)	2.9168	2.9342	2.87	2.93	2.9331

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table listing Israeli shares in New York with columns for stock name, price, and change.

MISHTANIM LEADING IPOORS TASE ISSUES

Table listing Mishtanim leading IPOORS TASE issues with columns for stock name, price, and change.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table listing international shares with columns for stock name, price, and change.

NEW YORK

Large table listing various New York stocks with columns for stock name, price, and change.

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Wall Street fails to inspire listless TASE

Maof 268.80 ▲ 0.17%

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Shares closed almost unchanged yesterday in mixed and active trading yesterday, unaffected by Wall Street's rally, traders said.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

FTSE, Frankfurt shares close at new peaks

LONDON (Reuters) - London and Frankfurt stocks surged to close at record peaks yesterday despite faltering at Wall Street.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table listing New York market indexes with columns for index name, value, and change.

NYSE STOCKS

Table listing NYSE stocks with columns for stock name, price, and change.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table listing other market indexes with columns for index name, value, and change.

DOLLAR CROSSEXTES (US)

Table listing dollar crossrates with columns for currency, rate, and change.

US COMMODITIES

Table listing US commodities with columns for commodity name, price, and change.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table listing London commodities with columns for commodity name, price, and change.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table listing spot market metals with columns for metal name, price, and change.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table listing New York metal futures with columns for metal name, price, and change.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table listing London metal fixes with columns for metal name, price, and change.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA ABA

Foreign financial data courtesy of Commstock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

PARIS

Table listing Paris market data with columns for stock name, price, and change.

FRANKFURT

Table listing Frankfurt market data with columns for stock name, price, and change.

HAIFA

What's on in Haifa, dial 04-8374263. Includes information about museums and art exhibitions.

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

List of emergency pharmacies in Jerusalem and surrounding areas.

FIRST AID

Information about first aid services and emergency contacts.

DUTY HOSPITALS

List of duty hospitals and their services.

P A C M E D INVESTMENTS

Advertisement for investment services.

POLICE

Police contact information and services.

SPORTS

in brief

Friesen lifts Canada to win over Finland

HELSENKI (Reuter) - Jeff Friesen of the San Jose Sharks scored just over three minutes remaining to lift Canada to a key 1-0 win over Finland at the ice hockey world championships yesterday.

Whalers go to Raleigh

RALEIGH, NC (AP) - The Hartford Whalers made it official yesterday, announcing they were moving the National Hockey League club to the Southeastern American city of Raleigh and changing the team's nickname to the Hurricanes.

Fowler charged with misconduct

LONDON (Reuter) - Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler was charged with misconduct by the Football Association (FA) on Tuesday over his sending off against Everton last month.

RI hires former UCLA coach Harrick

PROVIDENCE, RI (AP) - Jim Harrick, who led UCLA to the US college basketball title in 1995 only to be fired last November for lying on an expense form, moved East on Monday to coach at Rhode Island.

Selig hires Frank Robinson

NEW YORK (AP) - Frank Robinson, who in 1974 became the first black to manage a Major League Baseball team, was hired Monday as a consultant to acting commissioner Bud Selig for special projects.

Flyers lead Sabres 2-0

BUFFALO, NY (AP) - Garth Snow made 29 saves and preserved an early lead as the Philadelphia Flyers beat the Buffalo Sabres 2-1 Monday night in Game 2 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Man Utd clinch league title

LONDON (Reuter) - Manchester United were crowned English premier league champions without kicking a ball last night as rivals Liverpool and Newcastle saw their hopes dashed by London opponents.



Well done teammate! San Francisco Giants' first baseman J.T. Snow congratulates third baseman Mark Lewis after the latter hit a solo home run off Montreal Expos pitcher Carlos Perez in the second inning of their game at Com Park on Monday.

Rockets beat Sonics 112-102

HOUSTON (Reuter) - The Houston Rockets blasted off to a convincing victory over the Seattle SuperSonics in the opening game of their best-of-seven NBA Western Conference semifinal series on Monday.

Rick Pitino new coach of Boston Celtics

LEXINGTON, Kentucky (AP) - Rick Pitino is leaving one of college basketball's most successful programs to coach the NBA's most storied team, the Boston Celtics.

Top three seeds ousted at Eisenberg Open

By HEATHER CHAIT

It was not a day for the punters as the top three seeds fell in the first round of the \$50,000 Eisenberg Jerusalem Open Challenger tennis event yesterday.

The exit of top seed Leander Paes caused the most ripples as he visibly ran out of steam against qualifier Robbie Koenig from South Africa, losing 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Four Israelis advanced to the second round after a bumper day which saw all 16 first-round singles matches after play was cancelled on Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day on Monday.

Second round singles action begins at 13:00 today at the Israel Tennis Center courts in the capital.

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SITUATIONS VACANT
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LIVERPOOL definitely interested in Banin
LONDON - Hapoel Haifa and Israel international midfielder Tal Banin continued his training with Liverpool yesterday.

DEADLINES OFFICE:
Jerusalem - weekdays: 12 noon the day before publication; for Friday 4 p.m. on Thursday.

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HOUSEKEEPER, SAVYON, LIVE-OUT, 5 days, 8-4. References. Good conditions. Tel. 03-636-1926.

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY, IMPORT company, 5 days, Poteg Industries, Netanyahu. Fax: 09-865-6567, Tel. 09-865-0545.

SITUATIONS VACANT
Haifa and North
HOUSEHOLD HELP
AU PAIR, LIVE-IN, 2.5 yr. old (wines + household), near Hadera. Tel. (06) 623-3190, 050-301-708.

Doherty beats Hendry sequence at world snooker championships
LONDON (Reuter) - Ken Doherty became the first player from the Republic of Ireland to win the world professional snooker title on Monday, routing Stephen Hendry's attempts to win the championship for a seventh time.

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But the world number one was unable to find the sort of form which has overwhelmed so many of his rivals in the past and, despite winning five frames in a row, could not claw his way back from 15-7 down.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

MUSIC

HELEN KAYE

Bustan Avraham, that great band which blends western and oriental music into a beguiling mix of rhythm and melody...



Trumpeter Hakan Hardenberger performs tonight and tomorrow at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Seventeen-year-old Finnish conductor Mikko Franck leads the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra...

Also in Jerusalem tonight the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance presents Ernest Bloch Resurrected...

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

In an otherwise dull television evening tonight, check out the film The Siren's Song at 21:05 on Channel 2...

national hysteria and madness during the Gulf war.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

1/2 101 DALMATIANS - Real, live actors and real, live puppy dogs make up the cast of the latest version of 101 Dalmatians...

With Joely Richardson, Jeff Daniels, and Glenn Close as a campy, scene-stealing Cruella Deville...

TV Channel listings for Channel 1, Educational TV, Middle East TV, Hebrew Programs, Arabic Programs, and Cable.

Cable listings for ITV 3 (53) and ETV 2 (23).

Family Channel listings for Family Channel (8) and Jordan TV.

PRIME TIME TV listings for channels 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8.

Woman loses her family in a tragic accident and decides to start life afresh as an anonymous Parisian.

6:00 Motorcycling: Spanish Grand Prix 7:00 Rugby Superstars World Cup...



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Athletics event of a punishing nature? (4,4) 5 Sweet smell attracts insect (6)...

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

QUICK CROSSWORD section with clues and solutions.

MOVIES

JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE Jurassic Park 5 - September 7-20 - Self-Made Hero 9:15 - June 9:20 - G.G. GIL 1-4 = 86512222...

Vertical text on the left edge of the page, including 'Jerusalem Post' and 'White RYOM A'UT'.

**NEWS**

*in brief*

**Kahalani brothers' appeal turned down**

The Supreme Court yesterday denied the appeal of Eitan and Yehoyada Kahalani against their conviction for attempted murder, conspiracy to commit murder, and possessing an unlicensed weapon. The court also rejected their appeal against their 12-year sentences. In September 1994, the Kahalanis stopped an Arab on the way from Jerusalem to his village of Kafr Batir, and Eitan aimed an M-16 at his head, and pulled the trigger. But the gun did not fire because the firing pin had been taken out earlier by the General Security Service. *Itim*

**Archeologists attacked at excavation**

Archeologists working in Kafr Yasif, near Acre, were attacked by two haredim who arrived at the site and began causing disturbances yesterday. The two began cursing the archeologists, calling them "Nazis," spitting on them, and pushing them in an attempt to halt the excavations. One of the archeologists needed medical attention. Police arrested the two. The archeologists expressed shock at the attack, noting that no bones had been found at the site. In another incident, dozens of haredim caused disturbances at an excavation near Ofakim, claiming Jewish graves were at the site, and forced archeologists to halt work. *Itim*

**Underworld figure found murdered**

The body of underworld figure Alon Ahrak was found yesterday morning about a kilometer north of Kfar Shmaryahu. He had been shot several times in the chest and head from close range. The murderers left NIS 6,000 in his wallet, indicating the motive for the killing was not robbery. Because residents of Rehov Fardess in Kfar Shmaryahu reported hearing gunshots during the night, police theorize that Ahrak was murdered there, and then his body was driven away and dumped alongside the road. Ahrak was known to police as a criminal, allegedly specializing in protection rackets in Bat Yam. *Raine Marcus*

**Dell: Media studies should be mandatory**

Media studies should be part of the required curriculum in the nation's schools, Education Ministry Director-General Benzion Dell said yesterday. Dell said that since the media now consumes such a large part of the average person's spare time, pupils should be taught to better understand the place of the media in a democratic society. Dell said the number of kindergartens and schools which study the media has grown in recent years, but it is not yet a required subject. He added that the ministry's curriculum division has produced study plans on the subject for all ages. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

**Terror victim returns from Swiss hospital**

Yona Peter Malina, 30, a native of Switzerland who was critically injured in the terror bombing of a No. 26 bus in Jerusalem in August 1995, is returning today after nearly two years in a Swiss hospital. The attack paralyzed Malina from the neck down, yet he is able to function with the help of a computer he operates via a breathing tube. His trip has been made possible through the efforts of the Jewish Agency, Hadassah Medical Organization, Machon Meir, and the Hebrew University. *Uriel Heilman*



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is assisted by a ground crewman as he prepares to take his first supersonic flight in an air force F-15 yesterday. (IDF Spokesman)

**Netanyahu: War with Syria unlikely**

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Contrary to persistent media reports, the prospects of war breaking out any time soon are unlikely and peace will come. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said before taking a ride in an air force F-15 yesterday. Dressed in flight overalls and flanked by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliyahu, the prime minister said on a visit to Tel Nof Air Force Base that Israel also has an answer to a new deadly nerve gas in the Syrian arsenal. "I don't think we are facing new or special threats. There are no danger signs of war. This danger always exists and we are always ready for it - the IDF and the air force are doing what is necessary, but we have no new signs that suggests war is

close," Netanyahu said. "Contrary to the negative line some analysts have taken, I believe that in the course of the coming year we will advance toward and also reach peace with some of our neighbors," he said. Reports that Syria has developed a nerve gas called VX are not new, said Netanyahu. "We found out about it more than six months ago, so it's not new. We are certainly aware of the fact that there is a missile threat, which has been erected around us over the past six or seven years. They are getting hold of warheads. There is nothing new about it. There is no leap forward either," Netanyahu said. "We are aware of it and the IDF is prepared to meet these problems and we have an answer. We are developing new answers as well," the prime minister said.

Netanyahu met with pilots and praised the role of the air force in the defense of the state, promising to make sure its vital needs are maintained in future budgets. Pilots told Netanyahu they fear the images of the air force and its career officers had been eroded and harmed among the public due to what they called "bad press" over accidents and high wages. "I told them," Netanyahu said. "That I believe there is great appreciation among Israel's citizens, who understand fundamentally that the safety of Israel and its existence is primarily dependent on this backbone of the IDF." He then turned and climbed into the back seat of a waiting F-15, named "Flying High," for his first supersonic flight, piloted by squadron commander Lt.-Col. S.

**WEATHER** Golden 10-23

Forecast: Clear with a slight rise in temperatures.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

	LOW	HIGH	WIND
	C	F	
Amsterdam	12	54	14
Berlin	10	50	22
Buenos Aires	13	55	23
Caro	15	59	23
Chicago	06	43	24
Copenhagen	08	46	14
Frankfurt	11	52	17
Geneva	13	56	18
Helsinki	02	36	09
Hong Kong	25	77	27
Jakarta	27	81	10
London	07	45	20
Madrid	11	52	19
Moscow	04	39	12
New York	11	52	19

**Winning cards and numbers**

In yesterday's Chance draw, the lucky cards were the king of spades, 9 of hearts, jack of diamonds, and jack of clubs. In yesterday's weekly Lotto draw, the winning numbers were 4, 8, 14, 18, 38, and 48, and the additional number was 5.



**Abu Marzook to resume activities, Hamas says**

By MARILYN HENRY and news agencies  
Mousa Abu Marzook, who arrived in Jordan on Monday, plans to resume his political activities following his deportation from the United States, a Hamas spokesman said yesterday. "He is doing fine, his health is good and his morale is high," spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh told The Associated Press. "There are no conditions to prevent him from resuming political activities and he will do so soon," he said. Hamas sources said Abu Marzook, the former chief of Hamas's political bureau, was staying at a rented apartment in the suburbs of Amman. State Minister for Information Samir Mutaweh said that Abu Marzook will be free to "conduct his life like any other [person], abiding by the laws of the country." Mutaweh stressed that Jordan received the Palestinian militant leader on humanitarian grounds. A US resident for 15 years, Abu Marzook was detained in July 1995 when he re-entered the United States because his name had been added to a list of suspected terrorists. He has admitted to leading Hamas's political wing, but insists he was not involved with the group's military wing, which has claimed responsibility for attacks in Israel. Israel recently dropped its request for Abu Marzook's extradition as a suspect in 10 terrorist attacks from 1990 to 1994 that killed 47 people. The deal that led to Abu Marzook's deportation was essentially the same one that he had proposed when he was first detained in the US. In addition to pleading "no contest," he gave up his permanent residence status in the US, which he has had since 1982. Israel's extradition request for Abu Marzook created an embarrassing and increasingly untenable legal situation, because Abu Marzook was detained in solitary confinement at a federal prison in New York for 22 months, but he faced no criminal charges in the US.

**Remembrance Day will begin at 10 p.m. Saturday**

By AMY KLEIN

Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars and Independence Day will take place on Sunday and Monday, according to their calendar dates. The two-day observance will not be postponed as Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day was. "Holocaust Remembrance Day was postponed from Sunday to Monday at the request of Yad Vashem," said Moti Shilo, communications director of the Tourism Ministry, in charge of all official ceremonies. "The people who had to get to many of the ceremonies are elderly; Yad Vashem didn't want to make anyone violate the Sabbath to attend the ceremonies." Shilo said the Defense Ministry, which is in charge of the events for Remembrance Day, agreed to start ceremonies at 10 p.m. so people will not have to violate the Sabbath to participate. The first siren marking a one-minute moment of silence for Israel's fallen soldiers will sound at 10 p.m. on Saturday night, and a two-minute siren will sound at 11 a.m. on Sunday. The opening ceremony for Remembrance Day will take place in Jerusalem at 10 p.m. on Saturday night at the Western Wall. To avoid confusion in the future, the Knesset has unanimously approved an amendment to the "Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day Law," which states that if Holocaust Remembrance Day falls on a Sunday, it will be postponed to the following day.

Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport  
Information Center

The Committee for Independence Day Events

**49**

**INDEPENDENCE DAY 5757**

On the Theme of Zionism  
Commemorating 100 Years since the First Zionist Congress

**Main Ceremonies and Events**

<b>EVE OF REMEMBRANCE DAY FOR THE FALLEN OF ISRAEL'S WARS</b> Saturday night, May 10	<b>EVE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> Sunday, May 11
10:00 p.m. - Siren for a minute's silence, marking the start of Remembrance Day, throughout the country	7:45 p.m. - Lighting of Beacons on Conclusion of Remembrance Day, and Proclamation of Independence Day, in the presence of the Speaker of the Knesset - Mt. Herzl Plaza, Jerusalem
10:01 p.m. - Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars - opening ceremony, in the presence of the President, and the IDF Chief of Staff - Western Wall, Jerusalem.	9:00 p.m. - Independence Day Celebrations, organized by local authorities throughout Israel
<b>REMEMBRANCE DAY FOR THE FALLEN OF ISRAEL'S WARS</b> Sunday, May 11	<b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> Monday, May 12
11:00 a.m. - Siren for two minutes' silence	7:00 a.m. - Festive prayers at synagogues throughout the country
11:02 a.m. - Memorial services at military ceremonies, military sections of civil cemeteries and war memorials, with the participation of families of the fallen, the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Knesset, Government Ministers, Knesset Members, and public figures	9:00 a.m. - Reception for IDF Commanders - the President's Residence, Jerusalem
11:02 a.m. - Memorial Gathering for the Fallen of the Illegal Immigration Movement, organized by the IDF and the Ministry of Defense - Illegal Immigration Museum, Haifa	10:00 a.m. - Reception for Outstanding Soldiers - President's Residence, Jerusalem
	11:00 a.m. - World Bible Quiz for Jewish Youth, in the presence of the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Knesset, the Minister of Education, Culture, and Sport, Chairman of the World Zionist Organization, Jerusalem Theater
	5:00 p.m. - Reception for the Diplomatic Corps - President's Residence, Jerusalem
	8:00 p.m. - Award of the Israel Prizes, in the presence of the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Knesset, the Minister of Education, Culture and Sport, the President of the Supreme Court, and the Mayor of Jerusalem - Jerusalem Theater

Members of the public, including soldiers, are requested not to bring weapons to any ceremony, to expedite the work of the security forces. Weapons brought to a ceremony must be left at the entrance.

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